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Sudan

The Armed Forces has ruled out any possibility of the Army "taking power through a military coup," according to Abu Dhabi's AL-ITTIHAD newspaper cited by WAKH. The paper cited a "senior" Sudanese military source as saying the Army will only intervene in the event the political authorities fail to reach a "quick solution" to the crisis. The source added that if the Army is "forced to impose a joint civilian-military rule" it will be a "transitional option and situation" for 2-3 years.

Foreign Minister Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the National Islamic Front (NIF), reiterated the NIF's rejection of a national salvation government which includes the trade unions and other "unqualified" groups, SUNA reported. However, the NIF announced it will accept the formation of a "broad-based government of national unity," according to AFP. The agency added that the decision was "unexpected" and apparently made in response to pressure from the army and the opposition parties.

Al-Mahdi has cancelled a visit to Egypt scheduled for 4 March in light of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's apparent rejection of the proposed "brotherhood charter" between the two countries, SUNA reported citing Foreign Minister al-Turabi. Al-Turabi added that "normal bilateral relations" between the two countries would not be affected. State Council Chairman al-Mirghani praised relations between Sudan and Egypt as "everlasting" and reaffirmed Sudan's "eagerness" to develop them, SUNA added.

PLO Affairs

The PLO is "eager" to resume the dialogue with the United States "as soon as possible," stated 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, in remarks reported by MENA. However, he said U.S. procrastination "does not create the impression that it is serious" about the dialogue. He added that the PLO "is not ready to discuss" issues raised by the United States about fedayeen operations inside the occupied territories. Bassam Abu Sharif, Yasir 'Arafat's information adviser, also hoped that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue "will deepen in a constructive way," Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Iran

Iran has rejected British requests for talks on the Majlis ultimatum to Britain to "clarify its stance" on the Salman Rushdie book or face severance of diplomatic relations, IRNA reported. The Iranian Foreign Ministry believes the need for talks does not arise because the Majlis position is "quite clear," the agency added.

On the other hand, Britain rejected an Iranian request for talks in Geneva to explain Iran's position "following the threat of a break in diplomatic relations," the British PRESS ASSOCIATION reported

France rejected "without comment" an Iranian protest against remarks by National Assembly Speaker Laurent Fabius in which he described Ayatollah Khomeyni as "a criminal," KUNA reported.

President 'Ali Khamene'i "bitterly attacked" Britain, France, and West Germany for their condemnation of Iran's call for the death of Salman Rushdie, IRNA reported. In a Friday prayers sermon, Khamene'i said the three countries' "open confrontation" with Iran was an "ignorant and rash" move, the agency noted.

Iraq-Iran Negotiations

A spokesman for the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) denied that the 22 February meeting of the joint military committee was cancelled, WAKH reported. The spokesman declared that the meeting had been postponed and that UNIIMOG is now seeking a new date for the meeting.

Lebanon

Meeting With Arab League Committee— Representatives of all the rival communities are to meet with the Arab League Committee on Lebanon to work out a comprehensive solution to the crisis and to "introduce" constitutional and political reforms, according to Amman's AKHBAR AL-USBU' newspaper. The Muslim groups are to meet with the committee in Damascus, and the Christian groups will meet in Amman, the paper added.

Lebanese Forces' Withdrawal—The Lebanese Forces (LF) have denied "incorrect and inaccurate" reports on their withdrawal "from certain areas," the Voice of Lebanon radio reported citing an LF source. Meanwhile, the Voice of National Resistance radio reported that the Lebanese Army has taken charge of Beirut's 'Ayn al-Rummanah area where the LF have withdrawn from the streets. The radio cited security sources as saying the LF are setting up a new military council in Jubayl.

Situation in the South—Israeli commander General Yosi Peled called for expanding the "security zone" in south Lebanon, according to the Voice of Lebanon radio. However, officials from villages in the area denied requesting an expansion of the security zone, the radio added citing AFP. Monitored Israeli media have not been observed to report the general's remarks.

The Lebanese Army prepared to deploy its 123d battalion in the Al-Zahrani area 3 March, Beirut radio reported, adding that the deployment aims to raise the level of confrontation with the Israelis. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported later that the deployment has been completed.

Israeli armored troops were reported moving near the Al-Hasbani River north of Metulla on 2 March and heavy artillery battery was moved into Lebanese territory, according to Beirut radio. The radio earlier reported that the DFLP issued a statement claiming that an Israeli officer and four DFLP fighters were killed in an operation against an Israeli position. Jerusalem radio reported that four "terrorists" were killed in the south Lebanon security zone 2 March and that the Israeli forces "sustained no casualties."

Israel

Islamic Movement's Election Success—Tel Aviv's 'AL HAMISHMAR newspaper noted the "impressive entry into Israeli politics" by the Islamic Movement, "thanks to its success" in the recent municipal elections. The paper said the success of Islamic movements in Israel and the territories stems from the difficulty encountered by the Arab national movement in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Members of the Israeli Islamic Movement are "citizens of the State of Israel" and they "publicly and vocally recognize the State of Israel," declared Shaykh 'Abdallah Nimr Darwish, leader of the Islamic Movement, in an interview broadcast by Jerusalem radio. Asked about his past involvement in armed struggle against the state, Darwish declared that "all politicans participated in armed struggle" and that when the people can be served through legal and political means, then "the methods change."

Preemptive Strikes Threat—The Arab states should be ready to confront Israel's "preemptive strikes," according to Cairo's AL-AHRAM newspaer cited by MENA. The paper criticized Israeli Chief of Staff Shomron's call for strikes against Syria and Iraq and noted that similar calls in the past have led observers to believe they are intended to prepare Israeli public opinion for such strikes, which are only waiting for "calculated justification."

Afghanistan

Military Situation—Soviet troops remain in Afghanistan's Wakhan corridor on the border with Pakistan and the PRC, Islamabad's THE MUSLIM newspaper cited by AFP alleged. The paper cited intelligence sources as saying that a "huge military cantonment has been built in the region" and added that the USSR has also contructed smaller garrisons, an air base, and a road link in the region. However, Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the USSR Foreign Ministry's Information Directorate, described the allegations at a Moscow press briefing reported by TASS as "preposterous." He claimed the allegations were designed to divert attention from Pakistan's violations of the Geneva accords.

Recent military operations by the Afghan Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province left 92 "extremists" dead and 65 wounded, Kabul radio reported. Another 51 "extremists" and "terrorists" were killed and their weapons seized in Qandahar and Herat Provinces, the radio added.

Fuel Restrictions—The Afghan Council of Ministers issued a resolution 28 February restricting the use of petroleum products, Kabul radio reported. The restrictions affect official and private vehicles, fuel for industrial equipment and for central heating, and the supply of diesel and kerosene for families in Kabul.

Mujahidin Government—Ten senior mujahidin commanders have announced their allegiance to the Sibghatullah Mojaddedi interim government, Islamabad radio reported. A 2 March news conference in Peshawar was told that the interim government has the support of all commanders fighting inside Afghanistan.

Libya

Libya does not interfere in other people's affairs from an ideological point of view, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech to the General People's Congress broadcast by Tripoli television. Our call for jamahiriyahs to be set up everywhere is a matter of "self-defense," he said, since Libya is alone in adopting the jamhiri system.

Turning to the current struggle for authority in the world, Al-Qadhdhafi cited Hitler and Mussolini as examples of the "bitter fruit" of the party system in government. He pointed out that nations are calling for the "grip" of political parties to be lifted and for the establishment of peoples' power. This, he declared, is a step on the road toward the jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Israel Requesting Peace in Lebanon

JN0303074489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Mar (WAKH)—In an interview with the United Arab Emirates [UAE] television in Dubayy this evening, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat revealed that Israel had indirectly requested the PLO to help achieve peace in southern Lebanon and that the Americans asked Lebanese parties to realize this objective through an international mediator.

'Arafat explained that the Israelis urged a return to the cease-fire agreement that prevailed in southern Lebanon in 1981. He pointed out that he sent ideas on this issue to the Israelis but he has not received a reply to them. Asked whether the Israelis seek to conclude a deal with the PLO so that the PLO may calm down the valiant intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories in return for not attacking the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon, 'Arafat denied this and asserted that the intifadah is not a topic for discussion between him and the Israelis.

Replying to a question on what he expects from U.S. President George Bush, 'Arafat voiced the hope that the direct dialogue between the PLO and the U.S. Administration will resume as soon as possible. On the other hand, 'Arafat pointed out that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze informed him that the recent Soviet initiative on the Middle East was made in coordination with the U.S. Administration and that Shevardnadze will inform U.S. Secretary of State James Baker of the outcome of his Middle East tour during their meeting on Monday. 'Arafat added that it is wrong to believe that the Soviets act independently, stressing that there will be no peace in the Middle East without the Americans.

Meets U.S. Businessmen

JN0303081689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Mar (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met in Dubayy this evening with a group of U.S. businessmen participating in the conference of U.S. businessmen in the Arabian Gulf region, currently being held in Dubayy.

'Arafat explained to the U.S. businessmen the Palestinian viewpoint and the peace initiatives adopted by the PLO to realize peace in the region and grant the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, represented by the establishment of an independent state on their territory. Answering questions posed by the U.S. delegation on how to attain a just, peaceful solution to the Palestine question, 'Arafat said the establishment of a Palestinian state passes through Washington and not through any other party.

'Arafat urged members of the U.S. delegation to convey to U.S. President George Bush and to Congress and the U.S. people a message containing 'Arafat's call on the United States to genuinely lead the peace process in the Middle East and not to be totally biased toward Israel. The U.S. Administration should also fulfill its pledges regarding the Palestinian cause and people; should work to stop the arbitrary Israeli practices against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories; should halt the killing of children, women, and elderly people there; and should prevent Israel from repeating its attacks against southern Lebanon, he added.

'Arafat's message to the U.S. Administration through the U.S. businessmen also contained a request by the PLO to carry out its political and media activity freely in the United States and that the United States should allow Palestinian delegations to enter the United States to explain to the U.S. people the Palestinian viewpoint on the Middle East peace process.

On Situation After Declaration

NC2102160089 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13-19 Feb 89 pp 4-8

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Jubran Tuwayni, correspondent of AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Tuwayni] Is our talk with you today, following the declaration of the Palestinian state, with the president of a republic?

['Arafat] No.

[Tuwayni] A head of state?

['Arafat] No, not a head of state either.

[Tuwayni] With the founder of a state?

['Arafat] The founder of the state is the PLO.

[Tuwayni] Then, the retriever of a state?

['Arafat] The one who retrieved this state is the Palestinian child.

[Tuwayni] Then what title do you give to yourself following the declaration of the Palestinian state?

['Arafat] I am a struggler for freedom.

[Tuwayni] This is humble talk. However, what is the real title you wish for yourself?

['Arafat] A struggler for freedom is the most magnificent and marvelous title.

[Tuwayni] But is that struggler the one who declared the establishment of the Palestinian state?

['Arafat] I do not judge myself now.

[Tuwayni] Then it is the past that has passed judgment?

['Arafat] The most important thing is the judgment of history.

[Tuwayni] Now that the Palestinian state has been declared, we ask you: Were you afraid that you would not be able to declare this state?

['Arafat] No. You might remember that in the early days of the intifadah [uprising], toward the end of last January and early February, we and our colleagues in the unified command were debating this matter. We exchanged papers. You might also remember that after one of these papers leaked from Faysal al-Husayni's office, the Israelis became aware of the provisional government and the state as well.

[Tuwayni] Has the state been achieved?

['Arafat] The state has been achieved politically. The state is now recognized by the entire world, including America, because the dialogue [with the United States] was opened on the basis of my speech at the United Nations. The speech is tantamount to an extension of the resolutions we adopted during the extraordinary PNC meeting in Algiers. The recognition of the state, be it official, political, or de facto signifies that Palestine has been reestablished and that the Palestinian state exists on the political map. Whatever exists on the political map will materialize on the geographical map.

[Tuwayni] Is it more difficult for it to exist on the political map or on the geographical map?

['Arafat] At one time, for example in 1946, 1947, and 1948, we existed on the geographical map, but those who made international political decisions rejected us.

[Tuwayni] Do you regard that map of the partition of Palestine as a gateway to the solution related to the Palestinian geographic entity?

['Arafat] The PNC has approved the resolution pertaining to the declaration of the Palestinian state on the basis of [UN] Resolution 181, despite the historical injustice involved, as I have said. Therefore we started from this basis; of international legitimacy.

[Tuwayni] Did the draft declaration of the Palestinian state encounter any opposition on the Arab or international levels?

['Arafat] No, no. I am surprised by the unanimity of views on the declaration of independence of the Palestinian state.

[Tuwayni] You imposed this unanimity, but during the process that led to the declaration, did you encounter war?

['Arafat] Naturally, naturally, and on all levels, inside and outside the occupied territory. There is also the blood that has not stopped flowing for a single moment.

[Tuwayni] Do you regard the camps war in Beirut as having been part of the war against the declaration of the state?

['Arafat] Naturally. Bringing about the downfall of the Beirut camps has been one of the means to kill the intifadah. Do not forget that in actuality the intifadah began toward the end of 1986 as the Beirut camps were being shelled. It is then that we asked our people to demonstrate in support of these camps. It was also then that an Arab committee for the camps was formed.

The change in the U.S. decision

[Tuwayni] What was it that changed the U.S. decision on not negotiating with you?

['Arafat] Three developments took place on three different levels:

—A development on the international level, represented by agreement between the two superpowers as part of international detente to resolve hot issues, including the Middle East question and the Palestinian issue.

—On the Arab scene, there were new changes and developments, the first of which was the victory of Iraq, which represents the eastern gate of the Arab nation, and the strategic effect of this victory on the overall situation in the Middle East. Second, there was a return to Arab solidarity, particularly, the restoration of Arab-Egyptian and Egyptian-Arab relations; that is, Egypt's return to the Arabs and the Arabs' return to Egypt. Add to this the fact that for the first time the Arabs acquired strategic weapons.

—On the Palestinian scene: First the intifadah, second Palestinian unity, and finally the Palestinian steadfastness in Lebanon after people almost believed that the Palestinian presence there was going to be eliminated.

These were the three developments that brought forth the changes. They were also the basic foundation on which the decision to proclaim a Palestinian state was built. The political decisions made resulted from international, Arab, and Palestinian developments.

[Tuwayni] Is the U.S. recognition of the Palestinian role earnest and final? Are you optimistic with regard to U.S. dealings with you?

['Arafat] Yes, I am optimistic.

[Tuwayni] Do you believe that the new U.S. Administration is serious about dealing with you?

['Arafat] I view President Bush's latest statement as positive.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean that you are more content with the new U.S. Administration that you were with its predecessor?

['Arafat] I cannot say I am more content with the new U.S. Administration than with the former one. I am content with the continuity. As for actually dealing with the new administration, however, this is something that time will reveal.

[Tuwayni] Do the meetings you held with representatives of the U.S. Government make you conclude that an earnest U.S. approach to you is being undertaken?

['Arafat] Yes, ever since the first of the meetings, which have been held so far on the ambassadorial level and have been characterized by a positive and constructive spirit. As I have told you, we submitted a number of issues as we view them. We did this as a step on the way of a positive opening up between us and them. We are now waiting for positive action by the U.S. Administration after it finishes settling down its affairs in 1 or 1 and ½ months.

[Tuwayni] Has there been a change in the Israeli position?

['Arafat] What do you mean, exactly?

[Towayni] Do you believe that Israeli attempts to submit alternative proposals for a solution will circumvent the [Palestinian] state and its future?

['Arafat] This is an unsuccessful attempt on their part designed to extricate them from their predicament. Even their friends in the West regard it this way. The Israeli initiatives are fumbling.

The Intifidah Will Continue

[Tuwayni] Will the intifadah continue?

['Arafat] It will continue despite all the violence carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities, the armed settlers, and the Israeli Government and despite the exorbitant taxes (our citizens pay 38 types of taxes). The permit to leave for Jordan through the bridge is 60 dinars, that is $140. This is theft.

[Tuwayni] How much time do you give Israel until it negotiates with the PLO?

['Arafat] Both of us have a long time. I am very, very, very patient.

[Tuwayni] You are very patient. What about them?

['Arafat] It is known that they are not patient.

[Tuwayni] This means?

['Arafat] It means, as I have said, that the state is within reach.

[Tuwayni] What does within reach mean in terms of time and years?

['Arafat] It means, figuratively speaking, it is a few minutes before midnight.

[Tuwayni] Does this mean a few months, a quarter of a year?

['Arafat] Remember what I told Rabin at the start of the latest wave of the intifadah, which began on 8 December 1987. Two weeks later Rabin was lecturing in Europe. Asked what would happen in the occupied territories, he said: This is rioting, and the matter will end when I return in two days. I received the contents of Rabin's message a few hours later, challenged him, and told him: You have two days, two weeks, two months, two years. We have as long time as do you.

[Tuwayni] In your view, are the Israeli people standing with their government in its refusal to negotiate with the PLO?

['Arafat] It is no coincidence that the results of opinion polls carried out by firms belonging to the Israeli Government showed that 54 percent of Israelis support holding negotiations with the PLO to reach peace.

[Tuwayni] In this way can you call for an Israeli intifadah?

['Arafat] It is also no coincidence that one of their most important officers, Major General Jam'iyati, who tried to control Nabulus, said during the dialogue between Shamir and his soldiers: We are ashamed of ourselves for killing children, who are throwing stones at us.

[Tuwayni] Is this an important sign?

['Arafat] Of course. These are the dialogues, some of which are in Paris in which the Israelis are challenging their leadership. This includes Abba Eban and Knesset members.

The Government, When?

[Tuwayni] You have a state now. What about the government?

['Arafat] Do not forget that the PNC has decided that the Executive Committee should act temporarily as the government until the latter is formed.

[Tuwayni] Then the state has its own government?

['Arafat] Yes. We are acting as a state. It is on this basis that PLO embassies have been recognized. Today there are 96 embassies. This is one of the secrets of Swedish mediation. Sweden spoke to the PLO in the PLO capacity as the provisional government of the State of Palestine.

[Tuwayni] When will the new government be formed?

['Arafat] We are conducting dialogues and contacts on this issue with our leaders inside [the occupied territories] and the leadership outside it. We are studying whether it will be a political government or a technocratic one.

[Tuwayni] Who is opposing the government, and who is opposing the declaration of the Palestinian state or the attempt to set up the State of Palestine?

['Arafat] The entire Palestinian people support the government as they support the state.

[Tuwayni] Including the dissident leadership?

['Arafat] You are talking about leaders, while I am talking about the Palestinian people. I have nothing to do with the toys of intelligence services.

[Tuwayni] Do you consider the declaration of the Palestinian state a stab at them?

['Arafat] Some thinkers consider this the case. For example, there are the religious groups. At the first stage, they had a stand on the declaration but when they saw the sweeping current, they changed their stand and said: We support the state. But they have reservations about Resolution 242, just as the PFLP does. They object to the resolution itself. We respect this view because the decision was made by 83 percent of those voting.

[Tuwayni] The independent Palestinian decision has been achieved now then?

['Arafat] Yes. With the declaration of Palestinian independence, we have confirmed forever the independence of the Palestinian decision.

[Tuwayni] What will those who had battled to absorb the national Palestinian decision do?

['Arafat] No one can cover the sun with his fingers.

[Tuwayni] What do you mean? Have they become unemployed?

['Arafat] History is the best teacher.

[Tuwayni] Have you been contacted after you declared the independent state, particularly by some of the dissidents and some of the countries that have influence with them?

['Arafat] Regarding the Palestinian situation, there are no problems with the Arab countries. It is no coincidence that all the Arab foreign ministers went with me to the United Nations to support the Palestinian stand and this decision. All the Arab foreign ministers were with me except the Syrian one.

[Tuwayni] Why?

['Arafat] When we met at the foreign ministerial level here at the Arab League to discuss the Lebanese problem, the question of the seven-member committee formed to support the Palestinian stand and back the Palestinian intifadah was raised. Syria was a member of this committee, as represented by its foreign minister, who also recognized it.

[Tuwayni] How do you explain this stand?

['Arafat] This is an Arab decision, an Arab consensus.

[Tuwayni] Is there mediation with Syria now? We have heard that there are contacts with Damascus.

['Arafat] I have no knowledge of this.

[Tuwayni] Are there Syrian endeavors to open a dialogue with you?

['Arafat] I have no knowledge of any.

[Tuwayni] What has become of the dialogue you had started with Damascus following your last visit there to attend the Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] memorial service?

['Arafat] Unfortunately, it collapsed as soon as it started. Then there was their victory in Shatila [reference to Fatah uprising's ousting of 'Arafat loyalists from Palestinian camps in Beirut in 1988].

[Tuwayni] Has the Palestinian card thus become independent and, consequently, must the camps war stop?

['Arafat] I believe that the agreement between me and the Amal Movement in South Lebanon is a solid base for putting an end to anything the Lebanese might do against these camps.

[Tuwayni] Is the agreement final?

['Arafat] I hope so. We have decided to abide by this agreement fully.

[Tuwayni] How do we explain the war between Amal and Hizballah?

['Arafat] It is the war of foreign powers on Lebanese soil.

[Tuwayni] Who are its heroes?

['Arafat] You know better than I do, Jubran.

[Tuwayni] Foreign powers?

['Arafat] That met to bring about reconciliation.

[Tuwayni] Iran and Amal or Iran and Syria?

['Arafat] Iran, Syria, Amal, and Hizballah.

[Tuwayni] What is the cause of the problem between Iran and Syria? Is it about fighting Israel or about assuring it?

['Arafat] Time will reveal the objective.

[Tuwayni] What is your opinion?

['Arafat] I will keep it to myself for the time being.

Israel Prepares for the South

[Tuwayni] Are military operations [against Israel] from southern Lebanon currently suspended pending the results of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

['Arafat] You have to know that Israel is planning a military operation and has a scenario for war in southern Lebanon. I have formally informed my Arab brothers of this matter. We have submitted a memorandum on this issue, signed by our ambassador to Tunisia, to the Arab League. I also possess information concerning Israeli military preparations.

[Tuwayni] Why this scenario?

['Arafat] In order to mix up the cards.

[Tuwayni] Who will benefit from this?

['Arafat] Israel and the party that will be its partner stand to benefit from this.

[Tuwayni] Who in your opinion and [question unfinished as published]

['Arafat] Nevertheless this party will lose anyway.

[Tuwayni] Where and against whom will Israel make its incursion [into southern Lebanon]?

['Arafat] Primarily as far as Al-Awwali and at a second stage as far as Baydar al-'Adas in Al-Biqa'.

[Tuwayni] The Syrian Army is stationed there, isn't it?

['Arafat] Some time ago an 18-hour battle took place between Khaldah and Al-Damur...[sentence unfinished as published]

[Tuwayni] And the Syrians did not intervene?

['Arafat] The Syrians announced that they had not intervened, not I. I announced in a military communique that they had participated in the fighting. They denied it.

[Tuwayni] And the Israelis did the same?

['Arafat] And the Israelis did the same.

[Tuwayni] What is the purpose of mixing up the cards?

['Arafat] Creating confusion in the Palestinian situation on the Lebanese and Arab scenes.

[Tuwayni] And creating new facts?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Tuwayni] What will they be?

['Arafat] New cards on the Middle East table.

[Tuwayni] Between which parties?

['Arafat] Between the Israelis and the Arabs.

[Tuwayni] To impose a new course for an Arab-Israeli dialogue?

['Arafat] A new Geneva.

[Tuwayni] Like km 101? [reference to Egyprian-Israeli disengagement talks after October 1973 war]

['Arafat] Like km 101.

[Tuwayni] How can you prevent such a battle?

['Arafat] First by exposing it. It is for this reason that I am speaking of it. Second, by informing the concerned international parties and the Arabs of it. What is more important is to make more intensive Arab efforts to resolve the Lebanese issue.

The Committee will Succeed

[Tuwayni] Do you have confidence in these efforts to which you refer, particularly Arab efforts?

['Arafat] Certainly, I was one of those who were behind the establishment of the Arab League committee for Lebanon, and I voted for this. We struggled for this committee.

[Tuwayni] Will the committee succeed in its efforts?

['Arafat] Yes, undoubtedly.

[Tuwayni] Then this is a salvation effort by the Arab League?

['Arafat] Why salvation?

[Tuwayni] If the committee fails?

['Arafat] We will call for an Arab summit.

[Tuwayni] But in what atmosphere?

['Arafat] The atmosphere is not important. This is what has been agreed upon.

[Tuwayni] How will the atmosphere be then?

['Arafat] Difficult.

[Tuwayni] Confrontational?

['Arafat] Not inside the League. The most important thing about this committee is that the Lebanese issue has been returned to Arab hands. We must solve the problem. There are three solutions to it: Israeli, Arab, and international solutions. Our decision is to find an Arab solution for it in order to maintain the unity of Lebanon's land, people, and institutions.

[Tuwayni] But Syria has been contributing and is trying to contribute....

['Arafat] I am speaking about the Arabs. The Arabs have decided to intervene in view of the deteriorating Lebanese situation and to take the initiative from all the other parties, including Syria.

[Tuwayni] This means that the others have failed?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly.

[Tuwayni] Therefore, in your opinion, the committee will succeed?

['Arafat] The final outcome the committee will reach will be positive.

'Awn

[Tuwayni] Today you met with General Michel 'Awn, head of the transitional government. Is this your first meeting with him?

['Arafat] Yes, this is the first meeting. I used to hear about him as a brilliant Lebanese officer.

[Tuwayni] Do you consider him the head of the legitimate government in Lebanon?

['Arafat] Yes, according to the Lebanese Constitution. The League deals with him on this basis.

[Tuwayni] What is your impression of Gen 'Awn and of your meeting with him?

['Arafat] I consider the meeting positive. I hope its results will be good and contribute toward solving the Lebanese problem.

[Tuwayni] You have spoken about the Palestinian rifle?

['Arafat] Since we left Beirut, we have said that we will be the first to contribute toward a solution of the Lebanese problem. On this basis, our rifle will be at the disposal of this solution. It will not be an obstacle to a solution of the problem, to Lebanon's unity, and to Lebanon's future. All that we demand at present is the drawing up of an agreement dealing with the future of the Palestinians in Lebanon and joint cooperation.

[Tuwayni] The rifle would be at the disposal of Gen 'Awn as the representative of the legitimate government?

['Arafat] At his disposal and at the disposal of every Arab effort to end this abnormal situation in Lebanon and to restore order and legality.

[Tuwayni] After your meeting with Gen 'Awn and your follow-up of the work of the Arab committee, are you optimistic about Lebanon's future?

['Arafat] Yes, the Arabs will not allow the Palestinian tragedy to be repeated by also losing Lebanon. One Palestine is enough for the Arabs.

[Tuwayni] No to partition, therefore?

['Arafat] No to partition, no to disarray, and no to dismembering Lebanon. This is not allowed because it endangers Arab national security.

[Tuwayni] What do you mean?

['Arafat] What affects Lebanon will not affect Lebanon alone, God forbid. He who plays with fire in any room in a house will burn down the whole house.

[Tuwayni] Are you optimistic?

['Arafat] Very much so.

Beirut or the [Arab] League

[Tuwayni] Will presidential elections be held?

['Arafat] Eventually the Arabs will decide on a way to hold the elections, either by holding them in greater Beirut—in East and West Beirut—under Arab supervision of course, or by calling on the deputies to hold elections under the aegis of the Arab League.

[Tuwayni] Which of these two schemes is easier?

['Arafat] Actually, I cannot enter into details, because the issue is now in the hands of the Arab committee. I am only interpreting things. The decision should be made by the committee, the Arab League council, and then the Arab summit.

[Tuwayni] Should Lebanon regain its health, how do you view the future relations between it and Israel and also between it and Syria? We are aware that the Lebanese issue is not an internal one and that Lebanon is victim of a military and security problem with Israel, as well as of a political problem with Syria. How would you solve these two problems so that Lebanon might recuperate, by giving Israel security guarantees that the South would not be used as a springboard for military operations against Israel?

['Arafat] From 1981 to 1982, the South was not used for staging even one operation, but Israel exploited an assassination attempt that took place in London so as to carry out an operation in Lebanon.

[Tuwayni] Should the Lebanese state ask you to freeze your military activities?

['Arafat] I did so from 1981 to 1982. UN records testify to our observance of the cease-fire.

[Tuwayni] Does the Cairo Declaration include the South?

['Arafat] The Cairo Declaration does not include the South. In the South, the Palestinians, like the Lebanese, defended themselves against air raids and acts of aggression.

[Tuwayni] My question is: Will the operations against northern Israel from southern Lebanon stop?

['Arafat] As long as aggression is committed against us, we will defend ourselves constantly.

[Tuwayni] In the form of a defensive operation?

['Arafat] Yes. We shall continue to defend ourselves. This is a legitimate right, just as it is the right of the Lebanese to defend themselves as long as their land is occupied.

[Tuwayni] Walid Junblatt has launched an initiative for displaced people to return to the mountain. What about East Sidon?

['Arafat] I launched an initiative for the Christians east of Sidon. I gave instructions that every facility and assistance be given to them wherever possible.

[Tuwayni] Can you propose a new initiative for returning displaced people to areas east of Sidon?

['Arafat] I told them to return and provided them with every possible assistance. I shall continue to offer every possible assistance to the displaced brothers, be they Christian or Muslim, in the areas in which I have a presence. You are aware that when fighting took place between Amal and Hizballah, thousands flowed into Sidon. We did not fail to assist them, both the wounded and the displaced. This is my duty.

[Tuwayni] Do you support the old plan providing for deployment of UN forces on the Lebanese-Israeli borders and around the camps?

['Arafat] As long as the Arab committee exists, it would be out of place for me to discuss such matters. However, I will ask any new Lebanese Government to protect the camps in accordance with the agreement [not further specified]. I must respect Lebanon's sovereignty, just as I respect the sovereignty of the other governments on dealing with the Palestinian issue.

Egypt's Return

[Tuwayni] It was said that the Saudi-Syrian agreement that resulted from the meeting between King Fahd and President al-Asad dealt with the situation in Lebanon. It was then said that the agreement dealt with the question of Egypt's return to the Arab League. Do you have information about this agreement?

['Arafat] By God, I have no information.

[Tuwayni] Is it possible that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] does not have information?

['Arafat] On this subject, I have no information.

[Tuwayni] Especially about Egypt?

['Arafat] I have no information.

[Tuwayni] Some have said that Syrians have agreed to Egypt's return to the Arab League in return for Arab concessions....

['Arafat] Your information is better than mine, Jubran. I have no information.

[Tuwayni] Will Egypt's return to the Arab League be easy?

['Arafat] I believe it will return at the first meeting to be held.

[Tuwayni] What about Syria's attitude?

['Arafat] Egypt was not suspended by a unanimous vote. It can return without a unanimous vote.

If Iran Had Won

[Tuwayni] Has the Iraq-Iran war ended?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Tuwayni] With Iran's defeat?

['Arafat] And with Iraq's victory. We do not defeat a neighbor; we triumph. My Iraqi brothers say this.

[Tuwayni] What does this victory represent?

['Arafat] It represents a strategic and political turning point in the Middle East equation.

[Tuwayni] What if Iran had won?

['Arafat] The entire Arab equation would have been upset, and we would have entered a new era like the Ottoman Era.

[Tuwayni] Of imperialism?

['Arafat] You call it imperialism; others call it something else—decadence, perhaps.

[Tuwayni] Do you consider the international equation today as serving relaxation—from ending the Iran-Iraq conflict, to the declaration of the Palestinian state, to Cyprus, to Lebanon, and to Afghanistan? What is the title of the current phase?

['Arafat] International detente.

[Tuwayni] In the real sense of the word?

['Arafat] Naturally. You see the reduction of conventional forces and strategic weapons, the withdrawals, and what follows them in term of economic agreements, and relaxation on the economic, political, and technological levels. Another aspect is the solution of hot issues in the world, including the Middle East issue, which takes priority.

[Tuwayni] Are you satisfied with this international detente?

['Arafat] As long as it gives us a solution to our issue, we are satisfied with this international detente.

[Tuwayni] Has the final hour come?

['Arafat] Yes, it is a stone's throw away, Jubran.

[Tuwayni] You used to relate a famous saying, namely that these are bad Arab times. Do you still consider these Arab times bad?

['Arafat] Not at all. These bad Arab times have been lit by the Iraqi victory on the eastern gate [of the Arab nation] and the intifadah in our occupied land.

Khalaf Discusses U.S. Dialogue, Soviet Role

JN0303084489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Mar 89 p 7

[By 'Abd al-Majid Bijar from Tunis]

[Text] Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), second in the Palestinian Fatah Movement's command, has expressed his satisfaction with Palestinian-Jordanian relations and revealed that Moscow has embarked on new mediation between Damascus and the PLO.

In an exclusive interview, Abu Iyad said the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] will continue to maintain its current momentum, using stones and Molotov cocktails. He stressed that the Islamic currents are diversified and sometimes discordant, but the PLO is keen to work with them because the enemy is one.

The Palestinian official praised the Arab political support for the intifadah, but said Arab financial support is not on the same level. He stressed that the PLO does not beg for dialogue with the United States. Following is the text of the interview:

Asked about the truth of a broadcast Israeli report that a number of intifadah leaders were arrested, Abu Iyad said: The main problem for Israel, which is about to make it lose its mind, is that it arrested more than 30,000 Palestinians. Every time it arrests people, it says they are leaders of the intifadah. What Israel does not know is that the leadership is not individuals, but organizations. Therefore, it is hard for Israel to realize that these arrests do not affect the intifadah. Abu Iyad admitted that "important persons" were arrested, but said the popular intifadah is characterized by not being individualistic. He said there are organizations that are working very responsibly and in which every Arab takes pride.

Speaking about the role of the Islamic current in the intifadah, Abu Iyad stressed the presence of several organizations like "Hamas," "Al-Jihad," "Shabab Allah" [Youths of God], "Al-Mujahidun," and "Al-Wathiqun Billah" [those who have trust in God]. He said each current has its own method and color. There might be competition and sometimes enmity among these Islamic currents, but most of them closely work and coordinate with the intifadah, although they refrain from joining the Unified Leadership. Abu Iyad stressed that the strength of these currents is being exaggerated. What is important, he said, is that we are coordinating with them, and we have no interest in fighting them because our enemy is one, and we will try to correct them when they lean toward extremism. Abu Iyad praised Arab political support for the intifadah, stressing that the financial support is not as great as the political support, as some states fulfilled their financial commitments while many others did not.

Regarding the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, Abu Iyad said: We do not think that dialogue has been buried. The U.S. Administration told some Europeans and Arabs that it is studying the Middle East file very carefully and that it is waiting for visits to the United States by some Arab leaders and Shamir.

Abu Iyad said it is true that the PLO is pleased with its dialogue with the United States, but "we do not beg for dialogue or undesirable talks." He added: Let them take their time in studying things, although we believe that wasting time will be a large setback for peace, and this will be blamed on the United States and some European states that did not move as they should. He added that the European stand has not changed much from the one that preceded the Algiers summit. Abu Iyad voiced his fear of the dead end to which the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is heading, stressing that this might lead to a setback, especially since Israeli leaders do not want to budge away from their rejectionist stands and many no's.

Abu Iyad also stressed that the United States has not asked the PLO, not even once, to stop the intifadah and that the PLO has not officially heard that the United States considers the intifadah terrorism. He also stressed that the United States has not set any conditions for the resumption of dialogue.

Discussing the Tunis meetings between Palestinian leaders and an unofficial U.S. delegation comprising Harold Saunders, Robert Friedman, and William Quandt, Abu Iyad said the delegation concentrated on the nature of the Palestinian state and whether this state will be a stage toward swooping down on Israel or a final step. They also concentrated on this state's military and economic nature, its relations with its neighbors, the subject of the charter and its amendment, and security arrangements with Israel.

Abu Iyad said: We indicated to the delegation that discussing details benefits the enemy and not the peace initiative and that we can discuss all matters at the international conference, where we can discuss anything.

Abu Iyad denied saying the PLO is ready to amend its charter, indicating that he said everything can be discussed at the international conference, including our and your charters. In this regard, he said Israel, too, has its own charter, which claims that its state extends from the Nile to the Euphrates. Unfortunately, he said, the whole campaign is directed only against us.

Abu Iyad said: The question now is whether you want peace or not ... peace that is based on a Palestinian state and an Israeli state.

Abu Iyad shed light on some of his recent statements, stressing that in the recorded tape he sent to the international center for peace in Jerusalem he said that the international conference is the basis, but if meetings before this conference are deemed necessary in order to reach understanding on some problems or dispel some fears, we would not object to that. However, it should be clearly understood that these meetings are not direct talks or a substitute for the interantional conference but fall within the framework of boosting it.

Regarding the Soviet role, Abu Iyad said the Soviet Union moved in time after it was rid of Afghanistan and after the Iraq-Iran war came to an end. He said the Soviet Union wants to expedite the convening of an international conference that is preceded by a discussion among the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council, which will act as a preparatory committee that will later invite whoever it wishes in order to complete the discussion. He indicated that Shevardnadze will meet with U.S. Secretary of State Baker in March and that he pins great hopes on this meeting.

Regarding Palestinian-Syrian relations, Abu Iyad said: The Soviet Union has embarked on new mediation because it believes in the importance of the Syrian role. However, unfortunately the Syrian authorities have not invited 'Arafat for a visit, and he cannot go there unless invited because of the crises existing in bilateral relations. Stressing that there is nothing new on Palestinian-Syrian relations, he said: The elements of the Palestinian-Syrian reconciliation have not yet succeeded.

In contrast, Abu Iyad praised relations with Jordan and stressed that King Husayn's recent statements on elections were good and that he replied well to the Israelis and supported the PLO's moves.

Regarding the government, Abu Iyad said: When the state was first declared, it was thought that it could be a leap forward so that there would be negotiations and an international conference. Now it is the PLO that is playing the role of the government. We will not declare this government unless something is expected from it. Nevertheless, the subject continues to be discussed by the leaders. He indicated in this regard that any defect in the PLO or the government will create needless problems.

Concluding, Abu Iyad addressed world public opinion through AL-ITTIHAD, stressing that this is a historic and real peace opportunity whose loss would lead to a major setback.

Hurani: PLO Eager To Resume Dialogue With U.S.

NC0203194889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Rabat, 28 Feb (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Rabat today following a 2-day visit to Morocco, during which he met with King Hassan II of Morocco.

In another development, 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, has stated that the PLO is eager to resume the dialogue with the United States as soon as possible in order to look seriously into the issue of preparing for the international conference and establishing peace in the Middle East.

In a statement to TAP, Hurani said that U.S. procrastination in resuming the official dialogue does not create the impression it is serious about this dialogue, which began for the first time in Tunis on 16 December 1988. Except for a few informal meetings at the diplomatic level, no other meetings have been held since then.

Commenting on fedayeen operations inside the occupied territories, Hurani said the PLO is not ready to discuss issues like those raised by the U.S. spokesman.

Hurani expressed the belief that the meetings being held in Tunis at the ambassadorial level between the United States and the PLO since the first official round of the dialogue enable each side to find out the other's viewpoints. However, he remarked, these meetings are not on the level to which the PLO aspires.

Hurani renewed his call for a comprehensive Arab summit to support the Palestinian state and its peace orientations.

Abu Sharif Discusses Proposed Peace Conference

LD0203224289 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The PLO has expressed anew its hope that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will deepen in a constructive way that would effectively contribute to finding a political solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict in the Middle East. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to the brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], said that the establishment of the Palestinian independent state through the international peace conference on the Middle East would constitute the main factor for stability in the region as the establishment of the Palestinian independent state is the material and tangible embodiment of the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people on the same footing with other people and is the tangible fulfillment of national legitimate rights.

In press statements commenting on recent U.S.-Palestinian contacts and the U.S. standpoint toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, he said: There is no doubt that the establishment of the Palestinian independent state will constitute a factor for stability on the economic and development planes in the region and will greatly contribute to the stability of the region and achieving its aspirations. He also said that the Palestinian people were hoping and expecting that the administration of U.S. President Bush would make constructive efforts for the establishment of comprehensive and just peace in the region and put an end to the blatant violations, unprecedented in the history of peoples, committed daily by the occupation forces against the rights of the Palestinian people. Brother Bassam Abu Sharif affirmed that the occupation forces' escalation of terrorist practices against the Palestinian people gave nothing to the will of the Palestinian people but more force and determination to put an end to occupation.

Muhammad 'Abbas Insists Only Israel Targeted

PM0203160389 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Mar 89 p 23

[Interview with Palestine Liberation Front Secretary General Muhammad 'Abbas, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-'Abbas, in connection with U.S. Defense Department report on terrorist groups, by Salih Qallab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Qallab] The report published by the U.S. Administration on what it termed terrorist groups included the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] among those groups. What is your opinion of what is mentioned in it?

[Abu al-'Abbas] I believe that publishing that book at this particular time, that is, at a time when all eyes are focused on the completion of U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, proves once again the U.S. Administration's insistence on an absolute bias toward Israel. This is despite the fact that world and U.S. public opinion, in light of the pictures conveyed daily about Israel's practices inside the occupied land, has begun to realize who is the terrorist and who is the freedom fighter. That report is a clear attempt to conceal official Israeli terrorism.

[Qallab] The report accuses your front of carrying out some external operations.

[Abu al-'Abbas] The PLF has never carried out any external military operations—against either Israeli or U.S. targets. And even with regard to what is called the Achille Lauro incident, it is beyond dispute that the objective was to get into occupied Palestine.

[Qallab] Does this mean that you are against external operations?

[Abu al-'Abbas] We have not carried out any external operations, nor do we intend to carry out such operations. The PLF considers that the main struggle arena is the Palestinian homeland arena, and that confrontation with Israel must be maintained in that main arena.

[Qallab] What about the land occupied since 1948? Do you consider it part of the main struggle arena, or do you consider the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to constitute that arena?

[Abu al-'Abbas] We certainly consider the land occupied since 1948 a major part of the struggle arena, because Israel is the base of aggression in the region.

[Qallab] What is your opinion of the 1985 Cairo Declaration? Are you committed to it?

[Abu al-'Abbas] We agree with and adhere to that declaration because we, in the first place, are against external operations that could harm innocent people who have nothing to with the conflict in the region.

[Qallab] What about military operations in or through south Lebanon? Do you consider them external?

[Abu al-'Abbas] There is an Israeli military occupation in south Lebanon. Daily, air raids are carried out against our people's camps on Lebanese territory. So how can we be asked to stop fighting or not to defend our people? If what is meant is the network of Israeli settlements in the north of occupied Palestine, everyone knows that these settlements are military camps and bases. This is why we consider them military targets, with the emphasis that we primarily target traditional military positions.

[Qallab] The U.S. report indicates that your front does not discriminate between U.S. and Israeli targets. Is that true?

[Abu al-'Abbas] It is untrue. In their information they seem to rely on people who do not know the arena well. We do not put U.S. and Israeli targets in one basket. And since its establishment, the PLF has never hit any U.S. or European targets. Israel is our direct target. And, incidentally, we strongly support the dialogue initiated between the PLO and the U.S. Administration.

[Qallab] The Achille Lauro operation occurred during the era of former U.S. President Ronald Reagan. Do you expect good from the new Bush administration?

[Abu al-'Abbas] In fact, when the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue started, we were considerably hopeful that the Bush administration would take major steps toward recognizing the Palestinian people's rights.

PFLP: Attacks 'Legitimate'

PM0203163189 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 1-7 Mar 89 p 27

[Telephone interview with Sabir Muhyi al-Din, PFLP information official, in Damascus in connection with U.S. Defense Department report on terrorist groups, by Salih Qallab; date not given]

[Text] [Qallab] Washington accuses you of obstructing the political settlements proposed to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is your opinion?

[Muhyi al-Din] I believe that the report is primarily aimed at harming the Palestinian people and the PLO. It seeks to obstruct growing world sympathy with our people's just rights, especially in light of the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories, namely, by fabricating things that are untrue and insisting on leveling the accusation of terrorism at us both unjustly and unjustifiably. The facts indicate the contrary: While it emphasizes armed struggle on the grounds that it is the major struggle method and is endorsed by international legitimacy, the PFLP adheres to the need to convene a fully empowered international conference.

[Qallab] They also accuse you of supporting "terrorist" movements in the world?

[Muhyi al-Din] That is not new. We are tired of hearing this recital, whose aim is to deprive our people of sympathetic public opinion. I emphasize that the PFLP did not and does not provide any aid or backing for, nor has it any links in the first place with, any organization practicing terrorism.

[Qallab] The report also refers to external operations and infiltration from south Lebanon.

[Muhyi al-Din] Since 1972, the PFLP has clearly announced its decision to stop external operations against all Israeli and non-Israeli civilian targets. As for military action against Israeli economic and military installations emanating from south Lebanon, it will undoubtedly continue. We consider our struggle against the enemy inside occupied Palestine and across the Arab borders legitimate.

[Qallab] This means, as the report says, that you are against the Cairo declaration.

[Muhyi al-Din] We are actually against that declaration. We have explained that in a statement issued by the political bureau and via statements and articles published by AL-HADAF magazine, our front's mouthpiece. But I must point out that we are against killing civilians, Israelis or Americans. In our military operations inside or across the borders we try as much as possible to avoid causing casualties among civilians. What concerns me in the end is to emphasize that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue imposed by the intifadah and Washington's isolation has not changed previous U.S. attitudes, which are hostile to our people. We see the U.S. Administration using that dialogue to blackmail the PLO in the interests of Israeli and U.S. objectives and requirements in the region.

Groups Denounce Palestinian-Israeli Meetings

JN0303080889 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Brothers, a political statement has been issued on the meetings with Zionist enemy representatives. The statement was issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], Fatah-the Uprising, and the Revolutionary Palestinian Communist Party. The statement says:

To the masses of our people; to those who have written and are still writing chapters of glory and heroism in every town, village, and camp; to those who insist on continuing the valiant popular intifadah [uprising] until the Zionist enemy is defeated and our democratic independent state is established; O struggling masses: Through their continued and escalated struggle, our people managed to entrench the impasse of the Zionist entity on all levels. They also foiled all enemy attempts to crush the popular intifadah with military means. International sympathy and support for our just struggle increased following the fascist Zionist enemy's failure to murder the intifadah through the use of iron and fire and perpetrating massacres, like the Nabulus massacre and the recent Megiddo Prison massacre.

This is in addition to the economic war and the policy of starving our people. Having failed to achieve anything through bloody terrorism, the Zionist enemy is now trying to achieve something through political maneuvers and proposing hostile plans, which have been rejected by our people. Foremost of these plans are negotiations with the Zionist enemy, local elections, and self-rule. All these plans constitute an extension of the treasonous Camp David accords.

The statement adds: Masses of our people: Now that the uprising has become deep-rooted and turned into a daily life pattern for our masses, the Zionist enemy is trying all means to break the impasse it has been pushed into by our masses through the launching of a political massacre, aiming at the same objectives and purposes, using local Palestinian tools. This is through opening dialogues and holding meetings with local figures at the departments of military rulers and the Civil Administration, as well as in Jerusalem hotels, with the aim of reaching an agreement to halt the uprising, preoccupy the masses, and drive a wedge in national unity. However, such meetings are not a new matter, as our people have become accustomed to such meetings. Nonetheless, what is new is that these meetings come in light and complement the meetings held abroad between PLO representatives and Zionist officials in Europe.

The statement continues: Our militant masses: These meetings are being held with Zionists, many of whom occupy sensitive positions in the organs of the Zionist entity. Most of them have tortured our people and strugglers. A number of those Zionists occupied prominent posts as advisers to terrorists Peres and Rabin. All of them are affiliated with Zionist parties, both ideologically and practically. They implement a policy hostile to our people and their inalienable national and just rights.

The statement adds: The objective of these meetings is to reach an agreement to end the uprising and hold local political elections with the aim of preoccupying the masses, splitting national unity, dismembering the intifadah, and turning the battle into an inter-Palestinian one. What is taking place constitutes a cheap bargain over the blood of our martyrs and the struggle of our people. These meetings also constitute a plot and a direct stab to the intifadah on the international level and a factor of confusion on the local level. Not to mention their aid to the enemy plots to crush the uprising, the meetings lead to normalizing relations with this enemy, which commits daily massacres of our kinfolk and people inside and outside the occupied homeland. These meetings also contribute to creating a local leadership and separating our people inside the occupied homeland from the rest of our people outside the homeland in order to facilitate the liquidation of our cause and revolution.

O masses of our people: The intifadah has worked as the broadest popular referendum in which our entire people took part. Our people declared rejection of the occupation in all its forms and announced that the sole option is struggle, which alone achieves all our national objectives. We tell those whose personal ambitions motivate them to seek solutions with the Zionist enemy that the path to independence does not pass through direct or indirect dialogue or negotiations with the Zionist enemy and its representatives, nor through bargains, concessions, and violations of national constants. The tested and guaranteed path to our rights is struggle in all its forms, militant national unity based on a revolutionary program, and maintaining the unity, continuation, and escalation of the intifadah. This is the sole way to force the enemy to recognize our rights and to withdraw without preconditions.

In conclusion, the statement says: Finally, we say that our people's arm is long and capable of putting an end to whoever desecrates our militant sanctities and circumvents our inalienable rights, which cannot be relinquished, ceded, or bargained over. Long live our people's victorious intifadah. No to negotiations and dialogues with the killers of our people. No to the plan of the butcherers Rabin and Shamir. All glory for the martyrs.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC, Fatah-the Uprising, the Communist Palestinian Party in Palestine.

'Zionist' Raids Precursor of New War

JN0203193989 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The PLO has emphasized that the Zionist air raids in southern Lebanon mark the precursor of a new war scenario long planned by the enemy war staff to execute its criminal schemes against our people and kinfolk in the area. The PLO called on world public opinion to take a stand against this systematic, savage, state, Zionist terror mounted by U.S.-made Israeli aircraft and using American bombs to kill our people and children. This came in a statement issued the day before yesterday [28 February] by a PLO military spokesman. Following is the text of the statement:

A formation of four enemy military aircraft at 1130 on 28 February carried out raids against the towns of 'Aynab and Shamlan, hitting an elementary school in the former. The raids were mounted in three stages, the last at 1155. Two Palestinians were martyred and another 26, including 6 schoolchildren, were wounded by shrapnel. Several buildings were destroyed. These Zionist air raids are the prelude to a new war in southern lebanon that has been planned for some time to executve a criminal scheme against our kinfolk and people in the area.

The PLO appeals to world public opinion to take a stand against this savage, systematic, Israeli terror mounted by American-made Israeli aircraft using U.S. bombs to kill our people and children.

Algeria

Bendjedid Sends 'Good Wishes' to King Hassan II

LD0203230289 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid sent a congratulatory message of good wishes to King Hassan II of Morocco on the occasion Throne Day.

The head of state also expressed his satisfaction with the Ifrane and Marrakech meetings, their positive results on bilateral relations, and the prospects for building the Greater Maghreb. He renewed Algeria's readiness to work together with Morocco with a view to consolidating and reinforcing relations between the two sister countries.

Ministers View International Treaty Commitments

LD0203112389 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Algiers 2/3/89 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid defined during the meeting of the Council of Ministers he chaired Wednesday, the main lines of immediate action to be undertaken by institutions to materialize in the shortest time the constitutional reforms adopted.

A time-table for the elaboration of bills was adopted in this context by the Council of Ministers in order to enable the People's National Assembly to discuss the most determining bills by the first semester of this year.

In this context, the priority was given to legislative texts related to the right to information, freedom in the creation of associations, the organization of elections, in elected assemblies at various levels, to trade unionism and the right to strike on the one hand and on the independent exercise of the judicial power on the other hand.

In this prospect, the president of the Republic insisted in order that the content of the future laws will strictly respect the constitution mainly concerning guarantees related to individual and collective freedoms, the setting up of efficient and transparent mechanisms for the separation of powers and the necessary modernization and reorganization of the administration in order that it will be up to the new imperatives. In its examination of other points, the Council of Ministers reviewed the provisions included in documents concerning the creation of the Union of Arab Maghreb, namely:

—The solemn declaration related to the creation of the Union of Arab Maghreb;

—The constitutive treaty of the Union of Arab Maghreb;

—The decision related to the approval of works of the Maghreb commission and recommendations and proposals of sub-commissions.

The Council of Ministers also examined the convention of the adhesion of Algeria to:

—The international pact related to economic, social and cultural rights

—The international pact related to civilian and political rights

—The optional protocol related to this pact (12/16/66)

—The international convention against torture and other pains or inhuman and degrading treatments (12/10/87)

—Protocol No 1 of 05/10/77 additional to 1949 Geneva Convention [word indistinct] to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

—Protocol No 2 additional to 1949

Geneva convention related to the protection of victims of international and non-international conflicts. On another development, the Council of Ministers examined and approved two draft bills related to the suppression of the court of state security and to the modification of the penal code in the sense of the suppression of relegation.

Ministers Meet on Price Freezes, Wage Increases

LD0203103289 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Algiers, 2 Mar (APS)—Mr Mohamed Ali Ammar, minister of information and culture and government spokesman, stated yesterday, Wednesday, that the Council of Ministers convened yesterday morning under the chairmanship of the head of state. Within the framework of consolidating the rule of law and the rights to a defense, the two draft bills dealing with the abolishment of the State Security Court and the sentence of deportation were ratified. [passage omitted]

The minister also pointed out that the head of government's dealt with the measures which were adopted and are being implemented to "increase salaries and freeze the prices of basic commodities" as well as other measures which are being prepared in order "to stabilize the market and to regularly supply it in order to avoid all forms of tension." [passage omitted]

Social Democratic Party Formed; Policy Detailed

LD0203221489 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In the context of constitutional reforms and their political consequences, we note the creation of a new political party, the Social Democratic Party, SDP. It joins the other associations that form the Algerian political landscape.

The announcement of its formation was made this morning at the Safir Hotel in Algiers. According to a member of the Provisional Executive Bureau—comprised of 16 members in charge of founding the future congress—the SDP is a centrist party which aims to establish social justice. The SDP, according to its members, will make an official announcement after the limited congress. It will work to build a strong and stable state built by Algerian society, to rehabilitate citizens within the framework of political decision making and to encourage private initiative.

On the cultural level, the SDP will work to develop Algerian linguistic and cultural heritage, as well as to enhance the principle of Arabic as the official language in practice and Islam as the religion of the state and people. The SDP, which initially was to be called the National Democratic Rally, intends to give its point of view on the draft bills that will soon be submitted to the National Assembly. The provisional executive bureau of the SDP is exclusively made up of lawyers, doctors, university professors, businessmen, industrialists, engineers, and economists from the private sector. Its members include Mohamed (Noual), a lawyer; Salah Zahi Mohamed Cherif, a law professor; Tawfik Henni, a doctor; and Ziane Youssef, an enterpreneur.

Egypt

Sidqi Arrives in London for Medical Tests
NC0203173589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1728 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] London, 2 Mar (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived in London this afternoon on a private visit to undergo some medical tests.

Differences With Saudis Over Arms Industry Noted
NC0203115489 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 1 Mar 89 pp 1,9

[Reportage by Amin Radwan]

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visits to Kuwait and the UAE have given rise to speculation on the reasons why he left out other Gulf countries from his tour.

Well-informed sources in Cairo have revealed that there are differences between Egypt and Saudi Arabia regarding the issue of the Arab military industry, and a visit by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to Riyadh a few weeks ago failed to resolve this differences.

According to these sources, the two countries are still debating matters concerning the arms industry and military relations. Saudi Arabia is unwilling to contribute to the activities of the Arab Industrialization Organization, headquartered in Cairo, preferring instead to use foreign expertise and to coordinate directly with the GCC countries in military industry matters.

The sources have disclosed that President Mubarak held a telephone conversation with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, requesting that Iraq undertake the responsibility of explaining the future relationship between the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the GCC.

According to the sources, Saddam sent an urgent message to Saudi King Fahd in which he stressed the need for Saudi cooperation with the ACC countries in the military field. Egypt has been notified of the contents of this message.

According to the same sources, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry informed Cairo that Saudi Arabia will respond to the message of the Iraqi president within the next few weeks.

The sources added that during his visits to the UAE and Kuwait, Mubarak expounded the Egyptian views on military cooperation within the Arab Industrialization Organization. UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has given his initial consent to entrust this task of cooperation to specialized military committees from both countries.

The same sources noted that Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-Ahmad has asked Mubarak to allow him some time to examine Egypt's views and hold the necessary contacts with the Saudis to reach a decision in this respect.

The sources said that Mubarak had planned to include the Sultanates of Oman, Qatar, and Bahrain in his tour to explain the ACC's goals, but decided instead to send oral messages to the rulers of the above nations via the Egyptian ambassadors there.

Jailed Islamic Fundamentalist Youths Released
NC0303084889 MENA in English 0755 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Forty youths belonging to Islamic fundamentalist groups were released from custody yesterday and joined in a meeting at the Higher Islamic Affairs Council with Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub, and shaykhs.

Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and Muhammad al-Gazali, the two noted Islamic preachers, reported Al-Jumhuriyah in its top billing and leading front-page story. [sentence as received]

A similar report appearing on AL-AHRAM's front page puts the number of released detainees at 50.

The minister of Awqaf said at the meeting the country needed the potentials of youth to support Islamic activities.

"We are prepared to debate all issues and hold meetings with leading Islamic intellectuals to discuss issues objectively and freely," he said.

Shaykh al-Sha'rawi and Al-Ghazali called for mass rallies to be attended with youths in order to explain to them the sound concepts of Islam.

Leadership in Islam, they said was not a feature of haughtiness and that efforts must be made for supplying the country's needs.

Turkish Justice Minister Arrives 25 Feb

NC2502220289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2114 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—Turkish Justice Minister Mehmet Topac arrived in Cairo tonight on a week-long visit to Egypt. Egyptian Justice Minister Faruq Sayf al-Nasr and Turkey's ambassador to Cairo met Topac at the airport.

The Turkish justice minister said that his visit to Egypt is in response to an invitation from his Egyptian counterpart, adding that during his stay he will discuss ways of implementing the agreement signed last year in Turkey for legal cooperation between the two countries on the technical level. [passage omitted]

Departs 3 Mar

NC0303070589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0631 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Turkish Justice Minister Mehmet Topac and his delegation left Cairo for Turkey this morning. The Turkish minister had held talks with Egyptian Justice Minister Counselor Faruq Sayf al-Nasr. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses General People's Congress

LD0231311 89 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1111 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Speech by Colonel Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi at General People's Congress session in Benghazi—live]

[Text] In the name of God, brothers, we congratulate ourselves on this memorable, historic day. It is the advent of the 12th anniversary of the establishment of the people's authority, the establishment of the Jamahiriyah, and the establishment of the state of the masses of men and women. Authority, wealth, and arms are in the hands of the people. The era of injustice, exploitation, representation, and deception has ended. Now the people can gain authority by themselves, without any deputation or any agent. They can enjoy precious freedom for the sake of which they offered caravans of martyrs during their long history. The people alone will have the authority they deserve. There is no representation for the people. Representation is deception and he who became a partisan has committed treachery and has betrayed the cause of the people, because the party represents only part of the people and the will of the people is indivisible. Also the party is the tribe of modern times.

Society governed by a party is similar to society governed by a tribe or a sect or a class. The party power-struggle in modern times is another face of the tribal, sectarian or class struggle.

With the proclamation of the people's authority in 1977 in Cairo and Sabha, the cornerstone of the era of the masses was laid down. It marked the establishment of the Jamahiriyah and the authority of the people to replace the systems of representation, the republics, and the monarchies where the ruler owns the land and those on it and can inherit it generation after generation.

Today the Libyan people are celebrating the occasion, marking the 12th anniversary of the birth of the Jamahiriyah and the people's authority. They are not celebrating a national occasion like other nations of the world. They are celebrating a historic and international occasion. We are sure the entire world will adopt the establishment of the Jamahiriyah. All the regimes in the world will be turned into jamahiriyahs. Changing to the jamahiri system is inevitable. All the present indicators show that the age of the masses is inevitable. Jamahiriyahs will be established. All attempts to stop the broad march of the masses to power are most certainly doomed to failure because the march of the masses will not stop at the half way mark. It will continue until all the masses attain power.

The plurality of parties and the broadening of the opposition front and of the circle of power sharing are proof that all the people want to attain power. The Libyan people are the vanguards of all the nations of the world. They are the ones who are charting the road of salvation from the instruments of oppression and exploitation. The Libyan people are called upon to forge their way ahead by entrenching the Jamahiriyah, building the era of the masses and propagating it with firmness, confidence, and caution, because it is marching on the historic and correct road.

Any achievements the Libyan people can gain along the road of popular authority are international achievements. All the nations marching to power in the world will benefit from it. All the instruments of power have been used but they failed to secure the victory of democracy because democracy can only be with the people—all the people—in the seats of power. There is no democracy without people's congresses. Any rule where all the people are not in the seats of power is an undemocratic rule and the systems prevailing now are absolutely undemocratic. We do not want to criticize or refute the historic efforts made for people to arrive at what they have currently achieved: various and different positions toward people's democracy. But we must call for the popular struggle to continue to strive for the final emancipation, for the emergence of the jamahiri system which includes people's congresses and people's committees, and for the setting up of the state of the masses—men and women.

Your work, brothers, must always be viewed from a historic and internationalist angle. We do not expect the authorities, which oppress and exploit people, to applaud us or admit that this is the right path. We must expect the contrary from them, and accept it. But this must not deter our conviction that we are now marching on the right path. Whenever the instruments of power in the world are hostile toward us, we gain confirmation that we are their opponent. By being the adversaries of the instruments of power, we are the allies of peoples—the allies of the masses everywhere.

We must continue to incite the masses on the terrestrial globe for jamahiriyahs to be set up everywhere because we fear for ourselves, for the fact that we are setting up a unique jamahiri system on earth. Therefore, it would be a matter of self-defense for us to incite for the setting up of jamahiriyahs, because the setting up of any jamahiriyah would be a strengthening of the jamahiri system in the land of Libya, and when we incite for the setting up of people's power, when we call for popular revolution, this does not mean, in reality, that we interfere in other people's affairs from the ideological point of view. It would be a matter of self-defense for us.

We are only defending ourselves. It is very important to us for jamahiriyahs that support the jamahiri system to be established. At the same time, we are not going to be annoyed. We even sympathize with those who believe that their systems will succeed. We are not going to be annoyed with others who propagate their theories, or those who believe our theories are classical or so old that they are on the way to oblivion. These theories will most definitely be replaced by the jamahiri system, because a revoltionary ideology in this form is a call that gains some of the character of democracy. Thus we do not reject it. We welcome the authors of all the ideologies and beliefs in the popular congresses to present their theories and defend them with the proofs they possess. If the people are convinced of any of them, they will adopt them without harming anyone.

Consquently, all the guests and the whole world—those who are present and those who are not—should know that popular congresses are a free pulpit for every man who wants to present a view or a belief or any form of political, social, or economic idea. This is available to Libyans and to the Arabs who live among Libyans and the sons of the nations. For this reason, international congresses and pan-Arab congresses were established. I salute the secretaries of the international and the pan-Arab congresses who are now members of the general people's congresses, are present today, and are celebrating with us the anniversary of the emergence of the people's authority.

The presence of foreign ambassadors, of delegations from sisterly and friendly states, and of all the states of the world, in this hall, and in the other halls where the remaining members—the nationalists, pan-Arabs, and internationalists of the general people's congress—are, deserves our appreciation. They are making an important moral statement by participating in this international anniversary. Their countries may one day celebrate it as a national occasion. We believe that the mere spreading of the Green Book, the explanations of the Green Book, and the nonpracticing of dictatorship against the Green Book, will cause all monarchist and republican societies to turn into jamahiri systems.

There is no doubt that the whole world now suffers from a chronic headache—the struggle for authority. With each sunrise we hear news of struggle over authority in the various corners of the world. Prisons are being filled with the oppressors of governments all over the world. Victims fall, provided by the masses for freedom. Oppression, arbitrariness, and exploitation are being practiced against the masses all over the world in an attempt to stop them in the middle of the road, and this is impossible. The military tools failed and the strife among parties has intensified.

Let us not forget that the struggle of the parties brought Hilter and Mussolini to power. Had it not been for the party system, the world would not have been burned by the fire of World War II and the history of mankind would not have seen the sinful Nazi and fascist activities. These are fruits of the party system—Hitler and Mussolini. There are other bitter fruits from which many people in the world have suffered and continue to suffer. There is no time to list them. We said that the fiercest dictatorships rose in the shadow of parliaments. This is because parliament cannot at all be trusted as a democratic tool.

The Third Reich and Mussolini had a parliament. Does this mean that Hitler's regime or Mussolini's regime in Italy were democratic? In short, on this anniversary we should redouble our efforts in order to continue along this road—the road to final self-liberation—by abolishing governments, armies, the police, classes, parties, sects, parliaments, exploitation, and all the instruments of oppression and domination, so that the popular masses remain. They should be equal according to the second part of the Green Book, which constitutes the contents of the first part of the Green Book, because the first part of the Green Book—which outlines popular democracy—is the framework, but its content is the second part of the Green Book.

The third part of the Green Book is the social interpretation of the Third Universal Theory. I very much regret that the world which claims that it has become united, full of understanding, and civilized, is heading toward totalitarianism. It is regrettable for each country to reject social and political currents coming from another country, or region. I regret very much that in a world which makes such claims the Green Book is banned in many places while hashish and other harmful substances are permitted. I regret very much that ideas are criticized but opium is left alone in a number of countries. However, we feel sorry for them but ideas do not stop at doors nor can they be stopped at the borders whereas it is possible to confiscate opium, hashish, and other things at the borders. We are putting forth a commodity which must surely reach the people concerned regardless of the efforts of police, censors, and other tools of power which are anti-jamahiri and which do not allow the jamahiri to hear about the possibility of creating a people's authority through people's congresses and people's committees. This commodity will surely reach the people concerned. Therefore, it is fruitless to stand against it.

I salute you O brother secretaries of the pan-Arab congresses, secretaries of the international congresses, brother ambassadors of foreign powers, and the delegations which are here to celebrate with us from Arab and other friendly countries.

Brothers, questions are arising here in the Libyan Jamahiriyah about the process of building the Jamahiriyah after a transitional period for the last 20 years. It is the time to start implementing the Third Universal Theory as well as the Green Book's chapters. Some people have been astonished and believed it was a U-turn in the Libyan revolution. In fact this was progress in the development of the Libyan revolution. It was not a U-turn. The last 20 years have only been a prelude to the revolution—a preliminary and transitional period before the revolution. The building of the Jamahiriyah is, however, [sentence unfinished]—the building of the Jamahiriyah—the word Jamahiriyah should be enough here.

To attain the understanding of a large number of people, we should say the people's Jamahiriyah is now being built. In order to go along with such a traditional concept, let us consider the previous Jamahiriyah as an official one. Some time ago in the Soviet Union, Stalin set up official and governmental communism. His opponents, however, tried to set up real communism and people's communism. It is right to say that the official Jamahiriyah is beginning to end now so that the image of the people's Jamahiriyah will become clear—the Jamahiriyah in which the political system is achieved through people's power and the latter through people's congresses and people's committees.

This is the fundamental platform. The number of congresses depends on the population, and the greater the population the more pressing the need to set up the jamahiri system. This system is in fact needed by large states more than small ones because of the impossibility of a superpower to be managed centrally, from one city, one capital, by one government. Likewise, the number of people's congresses and committees depends on the population. This is the basis for the jamahiri system—congresses and comittees everywhere.

I mentioned the substance of this system in the second volume of the Green Book. Unfair relationships between individuals must be abolished, and these relationships should be free from any substitute for the exploiting parties. This means that exploitation must not pass on to another quarter, such as the state, for example, or the government. If the boss of a private enterprise exploits workers and if society, the state, and the government replaces the boss then we will have permitted society, the state, and the government to engage in exploitation of the workers in the place of the boss of the private enterprise. This means that we have not been emancipated and we remain in a vicious circle.

The second volume of the Green Book speaks about the setting up of a socialist society. I regret that the word socialism has become trivial, and when I mention socialism, people's minds go directly to the usual socialism in the world. But what we see in the world is not socialism. There is private capitalism or public capitalism—that is, government capitalism. As for socialism, it means returning wealth to the people, and the wealth must not be exploited by individuals for their own interests on behalf of others and to exploit others. At the same time, wealth must not be allowed to be in the hands of one quarter to use it in the name of others. Socialism means returning wealth to its owners. The sons of any society are the ones who have the right to the wealth of their own country.

At the same time one cannot permit giving wealth to one party so that it can control it on behalf of others. Socialism means giving wealth back to its proprietor. The sons of any society are the ones who have the right to their country's wealth. Thus, it becomes everybody's right to undertake any activity, in the services or in production, by his own effort without exploiting others. It also becomes the right of any group—big or small—among the sons of the jamahiri society, to take part all together and on the same footing in any activity—in services or in production.

As for the major efforts which go beyond the capacity of the partners, the partnerships, the individuals, and the families, and which are undertaken by society for itself, those who work in them are partners in production, not wage-earners. Thus, the problem of incentive is solved historically and for good. Workers drop forever the comedy of strikes, sit-ins, time-wasting, and protests to claim wage increases, to improve their conditions, or to take part in management or in profits, whereby economic installations are managed by working people's committees among the producers themselves. Producers become partners in this production. Consequently, they themselves will multiply their efforts, unlike the working class which is made subservient all over the world, where work is done for the benefit of the government and for the benefit of the boss of private business.

We are confident that these solutions will be victorious, not only in Libya but all over the world. Change has started in the Soviet Union and in the United States. A peaceful change toward the Third International Theory is taking place. We are not at all interested in whether this will be acknowledged as the the Green Book or the Third International Theory, because the Green Book is the book of all mankind and is drawn out of peoples' attempts to gain salvation and emancipation, and out of their continuous struggle for the sake of democracy, socialism and final emancipation.

The Third International Theory is the theory of all and is not attributed to one person. We are not at all interested whether it is said in the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union, or China that the change currently taking place in these countries is in conformity with the Third International Theory or the Green Book. We are interested in seeing this change take place and in seeing the wage-earners become partners. We were delighted to hear that there are 9,000 U.S. companies which 9 million workers are able to own. This is the Third International Theory. It calls for peaceful change by the jamahir: in order to realize the jamahiriyah. We were delighted that there are more than 1 million workers who bought a big British company, and that a draft law has been submitted to the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which has approved the setting up of cooperatives.

Calls are rising in those countries for the lifting of the party's grip on the people and for the establishment of the people's authority in one way or another. These are all steps on the path to the jamahiriyah. Therefore, when the revolutionary forces in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the popular masses confront any attempt to destroy the people's authority, or to hinder it, distort it, or steal it, it is an action not intended to serve anybody in Libya, because there is no one at the helm to defend himself except the people themselves. It is an action for the sake of all humanity.

We must not allow the portrait of the jamahiriyah to be distorted because it is the mirror that reflects the process of emancipation from injustice and exploitation for all peoples. Consequently, the revolutionary forces will not hesitate to smash any unpopular attempts. This is the only legitimate action in the world: to smash the adversaries. But if a ruler smashes his opponents to rule, then it is an illegitimate act. A party smashing its opponents to stay in power is doing an illegitimate act. Classes or tribes which destroy the other classes or tribes in order to rule themselves are illegitimate. This action must be condemned and criticized.

But when a revolutionary and popular force stands to destroy the enemies of the people's authority, this is permitted and legitimate. This punishment—enforced by the revolutionaries or the popular mases on the enemies of the people's authority—is sanctioned by natural law. If Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is ruling, has political power, and issues laws and decrees, it is the right of any other person who claims to be more competent than him to challenge and compete with him. If there were more gods than God, they too would challenge him despite the fact that he is Allah. It applies also to people. Those people have the right to take authority away from a person—or a group of persons, a party, a tribe, a sect, or a council—in order to replace him, because they might regard themselves as more capable than him. But when the authority rests with the people, and there is no authority for anything else, any attempt, overt or covert, to take away the authority becomes an attempt against all the people and therefore it must be destroyed without any hesitation. We are not ashamed to destroy the adversaries of the people's authority anywhere.

We never fear. The one who should be ashamed is the one who is defending his seat, his family, his tribe, his party, his class, his ministry, his throne, his rule, and his parliament. This is shameful indeed, because he crushes others with the governmental means he possesses in order to remain in power. This style is normally practiced by rulers but revolutionaries are not in power and do not practice any tyranny. However, they will not hesitate to crush any attempt against the people's power.

To complement this, whenever an individual or any group of Libyans becomes free to undertake any economic activity—be it a service or production—by himself, we can say that it has been underlined theoretically and has already made its way towards implementation. The people's congresses and committees set the rules for this. Any group of Libyans can undertake any activity, as a partnership, a service, or a production. It is also possible for any person to undertake any activity to render services to others or to himself, without being under the power or the exploitation of someone else. The lesson to be learned while we are underlining the people's power is that in a jamahiri society, no person should live at someone else's mercy.

We have liberated the wage-earners because they live under the authority of the employer who hires them. What is prohibited is to hire people's efforts. We have said that you can hire the efforts of a bicycle, or a camel, but how can you hire a person? These are human rights. People should enjoy the fruit of their toil. It is their natural right. These are not the superficial human rights brought forth by the international declaration of human rights, while fundamental rights are ignored. People are entitled to enjoy the fruit of their hard work, and not to be considered any longer among the category of bicycles, mules, donkeys, and camels, and join the category of humans. He is not for hire. It is these other things that can be hired. How can a person be hired. Libyans used to hire Libyans. Some used to hire 10 or 100 Libyans, like they hire 10 camels to work in a factory.

Now, there are about 200 companies which employ 100,000 Libyans and provide for half a million citizens. I mean 100,000 bosses provide for half a million citizens for their sons and families. These 200 companies were in the hands of only a group of Libyans. All their income and benefit went to the family of this wealthy Libyan because he is the president of this company. You know who used to own the companies now in existence. The situation may not be clear to you today, but in the past it was clear that this is the company of so and so. Thus the Sasco company is clear. One who was called Sasco. He used to have an Islamic and an Arab name, but changed it to Sasco. Co means company, it was derived from company. The company changed its name to Sasco. One who used to be called Muhammad became Sasco. It used to exist in the past and you know it. Shafco and Jafco, all of these things. This used to exist, because it was clear to you. These companies are now owned by the Libyans. Some of them had thousands of Libyans, some had hundreds of Libyans with their families, now there are 100,000 who own or work in the companies which used to be owned by a handful of Libyans.

The income from these companies used to go to a small group of Libyans. Now half a million Libyans live off these companies which are now owned by the Libyans and were taken from the exploiters. Now no one can dismiss a Libyan from this company other than through a court judgement. This happened in one of the companies. The secretary of the people's committee of this company told me that there is a worker who is not good in our view and he should be dismissed. We were unable to dismiss him because he went to the court and the court ordered him to stay in the company and that there was not enough time to condemn him. [as heard]

This could not be done because this worker came and said, this is my company, I own it, it is owned by my society, this is socialism. We are partners in this company. I am one of those who formed the people's committee. It runs the company but is responsible to us. When he came up with this argument before a Libyan court in Benghazi, it issued a judgment in favor of this worker until his incompetence was indeed established. Before, the director of Sasco could dismiss 1,000 workers and employ another 1,000 as he wished. What is important is that every person in jamahiri society should be free from fear and anxiety over his future, of the pressures of others, and should not be at the mercy of another in relation to housing, transport, or livelihood. Therefore, any Libyan who can find work from which to earn a living, which is legal and does not involve the exploitation of others, let him do so.

One of you is a graduate of the faculty of law, for instance. He says I want to open a shop for public work, to draft contracts, for instance. Let him do so. In the Third Universal Theory, the theory of self-liberation, such an action has no blemish at all. He is free. What is free is that you be free [As heard]. I work 2 hours, this is my way. You are free to sit and work for 2 hours. I know there is another observation concerning this talk, whose time will come. One says, I want to open a public works agency. We are a group of people who want to serve our interest. We have no time. We are owners of farms and animals, we have no time to go to such offices and sit there. They keep saying, come today, come tomorrow. We have someone who has set up a general agency. We tell him to take these papers and get me a car licence, a licence for a farm, or get me the papers for the pilgrimage, or I am travelling to Rome and Turkey and want to pass through Syria and Mecca. Arrange all these papers for me. Good, let someone go and do this in your place and bring you all the papers. What is wrong with this? You paid him for this and he can say no to you. Is it necesary to force people on officials? It is better that there are officials whose duty is to serve the masses. Good, this is part of the official jamahiriyah. Let it be free.

It is a known philosophy that society prepares the judge who passes judgement. The prosector, the police who apprehends the accused, the prisoner and his guards when he is placed in this prison—all were prepared by society at its own expense. Only the lawyer who serves the interest of the defendent is not prepared by society. This is the shortcoming of the international judiciary which exists now. This is injustice. Society has prepared the judge, the policeman, and all those who are against him. Why did it not prepare someone to defend him and bear his expenses? Defense remains part of the court procedure, but at the same time anyone who wants to open a law office can do so. He is free.

I come to the court, find a lawyer prepared by society next to the prosector, the judge, and the policeman. This way the court is complete. But I want to bring a lawyer from the street. I am free. I find a lawyer practicing privately. [applause] That is right, this is new. [laughter] The defense provided by society in the court is there for the one who does not want to bring a lawyer from the street. And the one who wants to bring a lawyer from the street is free. Go and open law offices. But at the same time the court has a lawyer. You want him, all right. You do not, then bring a lawyer from the street. This is freedom and everyone is free. You want to come to the clerk in the window to write papers for you or do something, fine. You want to find someone who has an office and you tell him do this for you and pay fees, he will do it. Let people serve each other. Thus the person who has a general office, the scribe, the lawyer—these complement the economic system.

We are now building the popular jamahiriyah. We are moving from the introductory phase, which lasted 20 years, to the topic itself—the Jamahiri system. The powers of the people's committees and the people's conferences at the base level confirm the authority of the people in the jamahiri system. All the powers taken from the people's conferences and the local people's committees were at the expense of the people's authority. By crossing the length and the breadth of the jamahiriyah, I found that there is a suspended people's authority which has not reached the ground—albeit it is very close to it—at the municipal level. There is emphasis on the role of municipalities and of the general people's committees at the expense of the affirmation of the people's power which must be entrenched and deep-rooted in the soil of the jamahiriyah. Therefore, in order for us to proceed now to set up a people's jamahiriyah, in the figurative sense, there must be full mandates for the basic people's congresses and for their people's committees. This means that all power is in the hands of people's congresses. I mean that any congress, at the municipal or any other level, should be able to issue whatever decisions it wants, and even legislation, according to its needs and to the region it belongs to. Likewise, it should have a budget and a people's committee responsible to it. [applause]

Things like these will be discussed at sessions of the general people's congress. Today we are commemorating the establishment of the jamahiriyah, the people's power. But the day after tomorrow, the general people's congress will continue debates on its ordinary agenda. These things will be debated, they will be explained. On the other hand, there must be a division between the strategic issues—to which those who deal with them should devote themselves entirely—and daily issues.

It is difficult to link the establishment of the big iron and steel complex in Misrata to the needs of a citizen for a wardrobe or a window for his house. When he asks for a wardrobe or a window for the house, we tell him that the iron and steel plant will make these things available when the second phase is completed, for instance. This is unacceptable to the ordinary citizen. An ordinary citizen wants iron now and a wardrobe and windows for his house now, before you reach phase 2, 3, or 10. On the other hand, the owner of this strategic plant should not be preoccupied with the problem of this house, but there is another people's committee whose task it is to know about the immediate needs of this house and to resolve the problem now.

We cannot link the question of farming in a particular area to a strategic plan for all the jamahiriyah, or to a question that interests the ordinary citizen. If today, for instance, he produces unwanted tomatoes, we cannot tell him not to market them because they are not wanted. No, he has planted them and the problem has to be dealt with. It should be tackled by somebody who has no relation with the strategic plan for imports and exports. Likewise, the freedom of domestic and foreign trade must be the responsibility of the congresses and committees which organize them as they please.

Generally speaking, this activity must enjoy complete freedom within the limits of socialist planning. Socialist planning says: a society must be a producer not a consumer society. If we want to buy something from abroad we must produce something domestically.

This is socialist planning. Anything else is perilous. Socialist planning also says that money goes into production and not into tourism, for example. That is in certain economic circumstances. In the shadow of this planning one is free to spend one's money in whichever way one wishes. If the bank says that it can remit money abroad enough to cover the value of 250,000 vehicles to be imported from Japan, we Libyans should be free to import 250,000 vehicles in the manner we wish. It is not necessary for these to come from Japan. They can be imported from the Soviet Union, China, Germany, Italy, Uganda, Sudan or anywhere else.

From now on, within the limits of socialist planning, popular congresses and the popular committees should be responsible. Libyans should be free, generally, to run this trade—all imports and exports—by themselves. Any organization which takes care of this should be disbanded because it is a burden on the state. Because of the budget this year, there is no organization that will import vehicles for Libyans. You are free. If a bank says that it can remit the value of 250,000 vehicles you make whatever arrangement you want to import them—by telephone, special order, or one of you could go and buy 10 vehicles for 10 of you. You can call on anyone to import these vehicles and import their spare parts. Thus you will be responsible.

Do not come now and say: Why don't you import cars? Who is the one who imports cars? Who is it? Or why did they bring this type of clothes? Any organization which imports clothes wil be dissolved now because, for argument's sake, it is considered an official organization. When the bank says that it can remit 100 million for importing clothes, the Libyans are free. They should get hold of 100 million and import clothes from any place they like and they can import any type they wish. Anyone who wants to go himself and import his own clothes can do so. Anyone who asks someone else to do it for him can do so.

If these 100 million are spent on building a factory for making clothes for another 1, 2, or 3 years then that is the proper thing to do.

Your import or export trade, your agricultural production, your industrial production, your imports from abroad, or your home consumption—from now on, you will not find anyone to take care of these things. The popular congresses and popular committees should make their own arrangements.

If you ask for something which is not available, we tell you that it is not available because you did not charge someone with its importation. Do that. You are completely free. Who gets up in the name of the Libyans, organizes himself and begins to import? One did this and imported useless clothes. Did we not complain of the summer clothes they imported for us in the winter, and of the winter clothes they imported in the summer? Who were those who did this? Dismiss them! Let them do another job. We import our own clothes. Good. Let us sit at conferences and committees and decided how to import those clothes ourselves.

Did not someone import cars for you and didn't you said they were expensive and they were indeed expensive? It was claimed that they were a benefit to society. They cost

2,000 [currency not specified] and they sell it to you for 4,000. The 2,000 he took for himself and gave them to the bank. You said no: If they cost 2,000 they should be sold for 2,000. Correct, this means that this man's understanding is no good. Assume he knows nothing, and you replace the Tibesti company which does not understand, and import cars yourselves. Bring them as units or in groups. You set up a popular authority to import cars, you are free to do this.

Is there not a dispute over fertilizer and animal feed. Did they bring it or not? Is it expensive or not? Abolish the parties which important animal feed that you manage. Al-Jabal al-Akhdhar imports the animal feed which suits it—let its population import it. Those in the oases, the same. The people of fizzan have special animal feed, let them import it for their animals. Their animal eat fruit kernels and the Bulgarian feed does not agree with them. Well, let them import fruit kernels and grow them, whatever is right.

Thus internal and external trade is free and the popular masses are entrusted with its organization within the context of socialist planning. Socialist planning is known, and the one who does not know it must learn it so that it becomes understood. The outgoing phase was the phase of the state taking control of properties in the name of the masses in order to replace exploitation. This Sasco and Shafco which we have mentioned used to be owned by individuals. They were taken over by the revolution in the interest of the people. The state managed them in the interest of the people. It is assumed that every revolution goes through this phase. But almost all the revolutions failed to continue this program to the end. They failed to take over private establishments and to replace exploitation by revolution. They failed to take from the hands of the exploiters, usurers, and thieves, and to invest in the interest of society. They become the public property of this society.

This is only a transitional period which is followed by the people's jamahiriyah, a period during which the jamahiri takes control of public ownership whereby the ownership of factories is given to the workers. The ownership of the other factories is given to whoever wants to contribute in them. This includes not only factories but all other activities in production or services. All activities should be owned in a socialist manner. Whoever wants to own a bus in order to drive himself and carry people should be free to do so because he lives from his own sweat. He does not exploit others. He is giving a service to others. There is no need for such a bus to be owned by the municipality as the latter is an official organization as we have already stated. From tomorrow all Libyans can buy buses jointly. Every four people can buy jointly one bus.

Tomorrow a number of civil servants can resign their post and set up a housing company which builds houses in order to sell them. Well they are free to do so. This group of people should be equal. All of them can collectively own such a property. Tomorrow a number of civil servants will leave their public posts and open contruction agencies with their own secretary and lawyer. Well let them leave freely. They can choose their own holidays. Their holidays will not be allocated to them by a boss. The people's jamahiriyah can be set up in this way. It will be a period during which the jamahiri will take control of the means over which the state took control previously in the name of the jamahiri and which it administered in their interest for a given period. It is not necessary for the state to continue administrating such properties instead of the jamahiri. With this transformation we will head toward the setting up of the Jamahiriyah-Burj 'Aji [ivory tower]. We should not feel ashamed to announce that we want every citizen to be living in a Burj 'Aji and being bourgeois. This is our goal. The bourgeoisie were the ones which built and introduced Burj 'Aji by expoiting others' efforts and sweat. As the latter is not now possible if you build a Burj 'Aji today you can only build it by your own sweat. The bourgeois state is a state in which the exploiting class took over the wealth and consecrated it in the interests of its members at the expense of other classes. this is the bourgeois state which has usurped the French revolution. The bourgeoisie may stage a revolution and take control of the wealth in its own interest, the interest of a certain exploitative class. As to the state becoming bourgeois, this is what is need—not the bourgeoisie ruling the state. The state becomes bourgeois, that means that everyone should live in an ivory tower. This is what it means. It is an Arabic word: Bourgeoisie, from Burj 'Aji. We do not accept masters in ivory towers while we are in tents and tin homes.

But when we are all able, thanks to the equal division of our country's wealth among ourselves, to invest it and build ivory towers for all of us, we will all live in ivory towers. This is the objective. We will never remain toilers forever. The toilers stage the revolution in order to take over their country's wealth from the bourgeoisie, from the exploiters. But they will not remain toilers forever. Otherwise, what is the meaning of staging the revolution? The toiler remains a toiler until he takes over the wealth stolen from him. Then he becomes bourgeois, not a toiler. We have begun in Libya on a wide scale.

The people who used to be hired like animals and bicycles, who used to live in tin houses and tents, and used to be poor, unable to pay for medical treatment, unable to tour and perform the pilgrimages, are able to do so because the stolen wealth which was amassed by Sasco, Shafco, and the like, is now in the hands of these groups which constitute a wide base of the Libyan people. Their standard of living rose and their conditions improved. The usurped oil was returned to the people, and now everyone enjoys the oil wealth because the oil wealth is now being distributed equally and is reflected on you in one way or another. Even when your salary is 200 instead of 100 this is because of oil.

This means that you have benefited from oil; otherwise your salary would not even have been that. The goods which reach you, wherever you are, away from the oil region, means that your share of oil has reached you. Before it did not. Why has one got a decorated home with balconies and marble? This has indeed been his share of the oil. He received his share of the oil. Thus the wealth used to be in the hands of a group, unexploited and confiscated. The foreign forces used to enjoy the wealth of the country in return for a simple commission to the bourgeois class. This has now returned to the Libyan people and the Libyan people have begun to turn bourgeois.

Consequently, we are confident in our culture, our achievements, our work, and our theory. We teach the world, and then we are not at all ashamed to declare the bourgeois state, the bourgeois Jamahiriyah. Every Libyan citizen is called upon to be a bourgeois, and achieve a high standard of living until he can live in an ivory tower. [applause]

With regard to those committees which have to shoulder this responsibility at the grass-roots, and this will also be debated, they do not have to have specific characteristics. Who said that a veterinary surgeon is useful for agriculture? There might be a farmer, a shepherd, or an illiterate person who can understand agriculture in the region where he is. A vet is called to look after green houses, and he is told that he is elected to be a secretary of a people's committee for agriculture, and he is asked to set up greenhouses in Batnan. He would answer: I do not know about them. True, he does not know. Tell him to set up a project for the promotion of camel-breeding. He would say: the veterinary science I was taught did not deal with camels. It only dealt with cows, dogs, cats, etc. There were no camels in it.

Then along comes an illiterate person from Batnan, who can promote camel-breeding. That is it. Why would he not be elected? He knows. He would say: If you want to promote camel-breeding in this region, do this and that. He is illiterate. However, he can be the secretary of the people's committee for animal health. There is no need for him to be a graduate or an engineer. Of course, we would not say that a hospital, a factory, or an electronics job, can be run by an illiterate person. These are specialized fields which should be run by experts. All technicians and experts have have enough fields for themselves. As for other matters, it is not a necessity. If they are there, fair enough. If not, it does not matter.

Certain problems, such as a valley which needs a road, a village which needs to be kept tidy, etcetera, are felt more by ordinary people than by others whom you elected on the ground that they are specialist technicians. There is no need for that. These are people's committees and people's authority. Congresses and committees are open to all Libyans, men and women, to those who (?sign) with their hands and to those who (?sign) with their feet, to those who write with one end of the pen, and to those who write with the other end. All are free [word indistinct] [applause].

On this occasion, from now to the next Fatih [1 Sep] God willing, we want to charge ourselves with drawing up lists of the pioneers in this country, men and women. The lists should be ready by the next Fatih, God willing, to honor these pioneers who had been wronged in the defunct regime. They must not be overlooked in the era of the jamahiriyah, freedom, the era of the masses. There are, for instance, Libyan women who were the first to go and work in factories, even the tobacco factory, in the defunct era. A Libyan woman, covered, was the first woman to enter a factory to work. She was in need. It does not matter whether she was literate or not, exploited or not. What matters is that this woman or this group of women was the first to enter industry. It does not matters whether she be age 50, 60, 70 80, or 100. It does not matter.

There are examples, and these must be honored and recorded in our history. We have women pioneers in this country who had entered the industry. The first woman to work in medicine in Libya was in 1950, for instance, when the first Libyan nurse appeared. Why do we forget her? She must be honored. It is like the pioneers who had founded the revolutionary brigades. These are pioneers. Who thought that Libyan women would set up revolutionary brigades? They were believed to be veiled, backward, unable to play their role in society. Groups of Libyan women came forward and set up revolutionary brigades even before the revolutionary committees. Revolutionary committees now consist of men and women, but the revolutionary brigades were comprised purely of women. These are the pioneers. Each of them is a female pioneer.

There are the first Libyan women to become airwomen, pilots—there are now Libyan women who pilot planes. These are the pioneers, female pioneers. There are also Libyans, pioneers of the armed struggle against the Italians, or political struggle against the English, against the monarchy, against the foreign bases. How can we forget them? They are pioneers. We must have a heritage to leave behind us generation after generation, in which we record all the efforts of the citizens of this country, generation after generation. If some hand over power to one another in a hereditary manner, we hand over the efforts, the sacrifices of the struggle of our fathers and forefathers to our sons and grandchildren.

Look for the pioneers who had waged the struggle against the British Administration, against foreign bases. The Fatih revolution did not ccome up from a vacuum. The free unionist officers had been certainly inspired by something towards this course—no doubt the struggle of the Arab nation, the 14 July revolution, the Algerian revolution, the occupation of Palestine, the tripartite aggression, 'Abd al-Nasir, etc. But alongside this Pan-Arab inspiration, there were local inspirations. In addition to this pan-Arab inspiration, there are local inspirations—the political and militant heritage of our fathers and forefathers.

Today we are honoring those who were responsible for it. There are many who are still living, who are considered pioneers. The first Libyan to sing on the radio is considered to be one of the pioneers of art. Where is this Libyan who sang on the radio? Had we been superficial people this would not have meant anything to us. But we are not. It means a great deal. Where is the gallant woman who sang on the radio or who became an actress? Such courage is unprecedented. If the first is a Libyan woman, she would be classed as a hero and pioneer. Anyone who becomes the first singer on the radio would be classed as a leader of scores of hundreds of singers. He would be considered their leader because he became the one who opened the road before them.

A woman who takes up a working job would be considered a pioneer to thousands of women who take up work. Even with modest or orthodox dress, a woman can become educated by going to schools, teachers colleges, universities, and schools. These women are considered pioneers. This applies to men also. The first Libyan actor is not only one but many actors. These were the ones who formed the popular arts teams and who formed arts groups and who established the factories and the farms and those who joined the forces and those who took up the diplomatic jobs or represented Libya abroad—all these are pioneers. We want lists of these people drawn up from the Fatih until now. On the 20th anniversary God willing, all these people must be honored. People who have not yet been recognized for their talents will emerge. They will feel they have been revived and become alive instead of being neglected. These people have served us well and we have not been grateful to them. [applause]

We are indebted to these people. They served us, treated us, and entertained us. We do not seem to be aware of them. We are duty-bound to pay them back.

This occasion coincides with the start of ratification of the treaty signed in Marakech for the emergence of the Arab Maghreb union. The Arab people in Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania listened to the very important debates in the Moroccan chamber of Deputies. They were carried by radios in these countries. We were pleased to listen to them because they showed that there is an earnesteness in establishing the Arab Maghreb Union and there is a responsible spirit that came into prominence in the debates of the Moroccan chamber of Deputies. There is an eager desire to provide material content to this political framework.

As we said: this union should be a step forward insofar as the broad and working masses are concerned and they should be aware of it. The popular congresses in the jamahiriyah are called upon to debate the treaty, and afterwards, the general people's congress, which consists of the secretaries of the popular congresses, will meet to draft the results of the resolutions of the popular congresses on this treaty. It will be useful that these debates will be relayed live to our brothers in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania, and our other Arab and African brothers.

There are some articles which the Libyan side was keen to raise. They found a response from the other brothers and these were included in the treaty. These provisions allow any member to establish a union between a member of the union and any other state. This means that Libya and Sudan can be united—it is permitted. The fact that Libya is a member of the Arab Maghreb Union does not mean that it cannot unite with Sudan or with Chad, for example.

Sudan, Chad, Niger, and Mali—these states which have been invited—found an article that if the Arab Maghreb Union agrees, these states are entitled to join this union. In this case, the Arab Maghreb Union wil not remain so. These states are entitled to change the name according to the membership. This unity will be complementary because there is no future for nations which join the Sahara except to join one another in a single political and economic bloc.

Sudan today is isolated. It was isolated when Egypt joined the Arab Cooperation Council. As soon as Egypt entered the Arab Cooperation Council in Baghdad, Sudan became isolated and tension arose in Sudan because the other forces felt that Sudan had become isolated. Khartoum became isolated. We support the rise of these units and they should be included in the framework of the Arab union from the ocean to the Gulf. We welcome the rise of 4, 5, or 13 groupings instead of 20 groupings. This is because all the Arab states are like groupings; they are not nations which stand on their own. There is only the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf and the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf. Even the existence of the Libyans is a grouping of an Arab tribe over this soil. The same can be said about the Tunisians, the Iraqis, and the Syrians. There is no difference between the one who lives in Syria. There is no difference between the one who lives in Syria or in Iraq. These groupings might be tribal or not. It was according to the colonialist influence and an inheritance of it. Today there are 20 groupings. We welcome the establishment of three, four, or five groupings. They can unite within a single Arab union. We support the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] and the GCC, etc. I regret very much that it has had a negative effect on a country like Sudan, and I fear that it will have a negative effect on Lebanon and Syria. Perhaps it will have an effect also on Aden which has become isolated, as San'a has joined the ACC, and it has become clear that Muscat and Oman are affiliated to the GCC. This is the isolation and siege of Aden, and also the isolation of Khartoum, Damascus, and Beirut. The effects on Sudan have been very quick. Sudan is now living a crisis of authority, as we have said. As far as Sudan is concerned, either the people rule by means of people's congresses and people's committees or this crisis will be repeated. Parties rule, but problems and strikes are stirred up against them. The party-based government falls and the army takes power, then the army continues. It fails to manage the social, economic and political institutions because it is an army, naturally. Then trade unions emerge, call for strikes and prepare the ground for parties, the parties rule, and we come back once again to the army. It is a vicious circle.

Sudan is now called upon to set up people's power. All the revolutionary forces in Sudan, the revolutionary committees in Sudan, should incite the masses to set up people's power peacefully, without bloodshed. Even if the army takes power in Sudan, the problem cannot be resolved. The army does not have a magic wand. Likewise, this crisis is not due to negligence by the government of Sadiq al-Mahdi. This is the government and these are its means. If somebody else replaces it will not have anything else to bring from heaven. Heaven will not rain gold or silver on Sudan. It will rain water, but water needs means to exploit it, and if Sadiq does not have the means, then nobody else has. Sudan is called upon to switch to a jamahiri system.

The setting up of the ACC in Baghdad has had a quick negative effect on Sudan, and therefore we must examine Sudan seriously now that Egypt has abandoned it and turned its back. Egypt now has no right whatsoever to speak about Sudan after it turned its back and linked itself with the ACC, away from any genuine unity between Sudan and Egypt. We would welcome unity between Sudan and Egypt, whether of the integration or union type, but the fact that Egypt shows its back to Sudan and moves away from it, this is like an act against Sudan. However, we welcome this council set up in Baghdad, and I hope that it will be a brick in the edifice of Arab unity, and a pillar of the Arab union which is currently on the Arab nation's agenda.

Thus when we advance toward the Sudan no one should protest, because it has been isolated, and Egypt, its neighbor, has abandoned it. Thus Egypt cannot say do not intervene in the Sudan, because it has abandoned the Sudan, and the Sudan is now living a crisis. The crisis of authority cannot be solved unless people's authority is established. It cannot even be solved in Garang's way—through fighting. This fighting cannot solve the problem.

Thus we are about to debate the Arab Maghreb Union and the treaty signed in Marrakech, because without the endorsement of the people's conferences in the jamahiriyah it cannot take force in Libya. No one in Libya possesses authority in the name of the people. We said that among human rights are the right to self-determination and the right to enjoy the fruit of one's effort.

This session of the General People's Congress has been characterized by the Libyan woman's participation in the General People's Congress on a limited scale [applause]. There are many women who have entered the general People's Congress thanks to their promotion by the people's conferences. Some 200 women's conferences in the Jamahiriyah are taking part in this session, and hundreds of women's conferences complementary with other conferences should be established. Of course, there are mixed conferences. The people's conferences are for men and women, but there are women who have established women's conferences, and this is permitted.

What is important is that we have now begun to build the people's jamahiriyah, because women have now begun to establish women's conferences, and the masses at the secretariats of the people's conferences and at people's committees have begun to promote them, and they have reached the General People's Congress. There used to be a small number, a few women, in the General People's Congress, and now there are many women in the General People's Congress in this hall, and the adjoining halls where the remaining members of Libyan, Pan-Arab, and internationalists conferences are seated.

We want the Arab Maghreb Union to also be a union of men and women. I hope that women in the Arab Maghreb Union will move from the harem section to the section of human beings, and change from a decoration to a human being occupying a seat of authority in administration. As we talk about the need for the toilers to receive their share of the wealth of the Arab Maghreb in the shadow of the Arab Maghreb Union, women should receive their full share like that of men in everything. Forward and the struggle continues. Happy new year. [applause]

Morocco

Iraq's 'Aziz Briefs Hassan on ACC, Departs

LD0203204489 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Marrakech, March 2. (MAP)—Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz flew back home Wednesday winding a brief visit to Morocco during which he was received by King Hassan II.

After the royal audience Tuesday in Marrakech 'Aziz told the media he had handed the sovereign a copy of the treaty establishing the Arab Cooperation Council "ACC" grouping Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen. He said he had also conveyed a message from President Saddam to King Hassan expressing ACC member countries' wish to establish brotherly cooperation relations with the members of the Arab Maghreb Union "UMA". ACC is currently chaired by Iraq and UMA by Morocco.

'Aziz also said he had conveyed a message from the Iraqi president to the Sovereign expressing determination to consolidate existing cooperation between Morocco and Iraq and reiterating thanks to the sovereign for Morocco's backing to Iraq during its war with Iran.

Hassan Grants Pardons, Commutes Sentences
LD0203210789 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] On the occasion of the glorious Throne Day of 1409, corresponding to 1989, the Ministry of Justice issued the following announcement:

His majesty our king, may God grant him victory, issued orders to grant pardons to 997 prisoners, to reduce sentences for 146 prisoners, to grant pardons of complete or partially served sentences to 44 prisoners without waving their fines, to grant pardons of sentences and fines for 10 prisoners and to commute sentences for 7 prisoners from life sentences to limited periods of imprisonment. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Further on Political Crisis in Khartoum

Ummah, DUP Begin Talks
EA0203124589 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (SUNA)—A joint committee from the Ummah and the Democratic Unionist Parties [DUP] began negotiations here yesterday for solving the current political crisis. It is to be recalled that the two parties reviewed the current political situation and means of solving it in a meeting held recently between the secretary general of the Ummah Party, Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, and the leader of the DUP, Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani.

All the Sudanese political parties are negotiating currently to overcome the crisis which appeared after the memo submitted recently by the Armed Forces to the chairman of the Supreme Council and the prime minister.

4 Parties Urge Dissolution
EA0203184489 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1330 GMT 02 Mar 89

[Text] Four opposition parties have called for the dissolution of the present government and the formation of a new broad-based government that includes all political parties and trade unions. The four parties—the Democratic Unionist Party, Arab Ba'th Party, the Communist Party, and the Southern Sudan Political Association—made the demand during a meeting with the finance minister, Dr 'Umar Muhammad al-Da'im in his capacity as the representative of Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi last Monday.

The secretary general of the Arab Ba'th Party, Badr al-Din Muddathir, said in a press statement that the four parties rejected the premier's response to the Armed Forces memorandum, which was embodied in his latest statement before the parliament, as it had closed the door in the face of dialogue to solve the current political crisis. Muddathir warned that the present government would be responsible for the dangers its conduct would pose on the democratic option, the unity of the country, and the Armed Forces.

Al-Mahdi Cancels Trip To Egypt
EA0203183689 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (SUNA)—The visit of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the Arab Republic of Egypt has been cancelled. It was scheduled to take place on 4 March in order to formulate the brotherhood charter. The cancellation comes in light of recent remarks by President Husni Mubarak. This was announced by Dr Hasan al-Turabi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who said the preparatory technical committee would not be going to Egypt.

Al-Turabi went on to say that the brotherhood charter was no more than a declaration of principle governing relations between the two countries following the cancellation of the integration system. He said that although President Mubarak's remarks could be regarded as (?a rejection) by Egypt of the brotherhood charter, this would not affect normal bilateral relations between the two [word indistinct] peoples.

Libya Said To Supply Equipment
NC0203154389 Paris AFP in English 1516 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, March 2 (AFP)—Sudanese Premier Sadiq al-Mahdi's Ummah Party was deep in negotiations with other political groups here Thursday, trying to win agreement on the formation of a "national unity" government acceptable to all parties.

Ummah's main negotiator, 'Umar Nur al-Da'im told a gathering of political and professional leaders here that Mr al-Mahdi would resign on Sunday if it proved impossible to form a broad-based government as senior Army officers demanded in an ultimatum last week.

Mr Nur al-Da'im said parliament would then be convened on Monday to nominate a new prime minister responsible for forming a government from the ranks of the Ummah Party, the largest group in parliament. He said this nominee would not be Mr al-Mahdi.

Mr Nur al-Da'im said Ummah wanted to discuss a five-point policy platform for the new government, aimed at: bringing peace to southern Sudan, mobilizing the Armed Forces, increasing production, feeding the people, and clearly defining foreign policy. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Thursday, informed sources said four Libyan transport planes had recently delivered military equipment to Khartoum. Calling for extra time to form a new government last Monday, Mr al-Mahdi promised the Army new equipment to combat the rebels. [passage omitted]

Al-Mahdi Meets Al-Mirghani

NC0203181289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1719 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (MENA)—Sudan's State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and the Council members held a 3-hour meeting with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi in the Republican Palace this afternoon. Following the meeting, Al-Mahdi stated that the State Council chairman and members briefed him on their efforts and on the agreement reached by the political parties on a specific national program and the structure of the future government. He said the State Council chairman is presently making further contacts and will brief him on developments in the situation over the next 2 days.

Al-Mahdi declared he will hold a news conference at noon on Sunday at which he will announce a final and sound position after all developments are assessed in light of the political parties' agreement.

Regarding consultations with the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] on the current situation, Al-Mahdi said he held consultations today with DUP leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani on ways to emerge from the country's crisis.

In another development, State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani met today with the Armed Forces general commander, General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, but nothing was disclosed on the meeting's results. A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that a comprehensive statement signed by the Sudanese political parties on an agreed-upon program of national reforms and the structure of the government will be released during the next 2 days.

NIF Rejects New Government

EA0203185589 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Mar (SUNA)—Dr Hasan al-Turabi, the secretary general of the National Islamic Front (NIF) and foreign minister, has reiterated the NIF's rejection of the formation of a government for the whole of the Constituent Assembly or of a national salvation government to include the trade unions and (?other) parties.

He said in a press statement today that consultations were in progress between the Ummah Party, the NIF, and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) [words indistinct] on resolving the current political crisis. He said the NIF accepted the idea of expanding the government by including the DUP, but would not accept the participation of the (?Communist Party) or the trade unions, which, he said, were unqualified and had no mandate to [words indistinct].

NIF Accepts Unity Government

NC0203192089 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, March 2 (AFP)—The fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF) joined other major political parties on Thursday in saying it would accept the formation of a broad-based government of national unity in Sudan.

The INF's decision, unexpected in many quarters, was apparently made in response to pressure from opposition parties and the Army.

About 150 senior Army officers last week issued an ultimatum to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, giving him until Sunday to form a national unity government. On Monday, Mr al-Mahdi asked for an extra week.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), the second largest party in parliament and a former coalition ally of Mr al-Mahdi's Ummah Party, backed the call, saying it wanted a broad-based government in which all parties, professional groups and trade unions would be represented.

The NIF had previously said it would not join such a government alongside communists and other left-wing representatives.

The party's change of heart was announced by NIF Political Bureau member Muhammad al-Hasan al-Amin, at a day-long crisis meeting of representatives of political parties and Sudan's Supreme Council, or collegiate presidency. [passage omitted]

Government Expected To Resign

NC0303061189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 3 Mar 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In connection with the political crisis in Sudan, AL-AKHBAR newspaper cites political sources in Khartoum as saying that Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is expected to submit his government's resignation today at the latest. The paper says he will begin consultations to form a new broadbased government comprising the major political forces in the country.

The paper adds that the new government is expected to be announced the day after tomorrow, Sunday. It notes that should Al-Mahdi fail to form a new broadbased government within the next 48 hours, he will submit his personal resignation to the State Council on Sunday, as he specified in his statement to the Constituent Assembly last Monday.

SPLA Says No Civilian Casualties in Torit

EA0203215589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Reports reaching Radio SPLA from our correspondent accompanying the "Bright Star" campaign forces say that the enemy convoy codenamed Al-Sayf al-Batir [the cutting sword] that was on its way to rescue Torit but was pinned down not more than 20 km from Juba has heeded SPLA warnings and returned to Juba. The SPLA forces in the area allowed them to return without fighting.

Our correspondent says that strict orders were issued to field commanders before the attack on Torit to try all they could to avoid civilian casualties during the fighting. All commanders were given special briefing as to the location of Bishop Taban and his diocese. These orders were obeyed to the letter and there were in effect no civilian casualties during the fighting. The church and friends are here informed that the following are well and safely behind SPLA lines: Bishop Paride Taban, Father John Baptist (Lohido), Father (Leo Traynor), Irish by nationality, and Father (John Lapassier), of French nationality.

Tunisia

Presidential, Legislative Elections Set for 2 Apr

LD0203234489 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] By virtue of the 4th chapter of the provisional regulations of the Constitution and the regulations of the electoral bill, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali signed three decrees during his meeting this evening with Mr Chadli Neffati.

The first of these decrees calls upon the electors to take part in the early presidential and legislative elections on 2 April 1989. The second decree concerns the organization of the presidential elections. The third concerns the organization of the legislative elections. Interior Minister Chadli Neffati will address a news conference at the ministry tomorrow morning [3 March] to shed light on the subject of the elections.

Bahrain

New Zealand Foreign Minister Meets With Qasim

JN0203123489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Habib Ahmad Qasim, Bahraini commerce and agriculture minister, met in Manama today with New Zealand Foreign Minister Cedric Russell Marshall. During the meeting, they reviewed relations of cooperation between the two countries in the trade, economic, and agricultural fields. They discussed the best ways to entrench and promote bilateral relations and benefit from New Zealand technical experience in the agricultural and animal husbandry fields. They also studied the establishment of joint food projects between the private sectors of both countries as well as facilitating procedures to implement these projects.

Holds News Conference

JN0203195789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Manama, 2 Mar (WAKH)—New Zealand Foreign Minister Russell Marshall has affirmed that his country supports the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East to resolve the Palestine question. Marshall said at a news conference here today that he discussed with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah the latest developments in the region in the wake of the cease-fire in the Iraq-Iran war. He noted that the Bahraini foreign minister briefed him on the Gulf Cooperation Council's role in Gulf and Arab issues. The talks also dealt with Arab-(?Commonwealth) cooperation, he added. Marshall said that his talks with Trade and Agriculture Minister Habib Ahmad Qasim dealt with strengthening trade, economic, and agricultural relations between the two countries.

On his country's trade relations with the regional states, he said that Saudi Arabia represents the largest market for New Zealand exports. He added that his country's exports to Saudi Arabia reached [figure indistinct] million New Zealand dollars while imports from Saudi Arabia reached 280 million New Zealand dollars during the past year.

With regard to trade with Bahrain, the New Zealand foreign minister said that his country's exports to Bahrain reached 8.5 million New Zealand dollars while imports from Bahrain are small as New Zealand only imports crude oil from Bahrain.

The New Zealand foreign minister said that he met with Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah. They discussed the cordial relations between the two countries. He added that his highness the amir's 1985 visit to New Zealand strengthened bilateral relations. His highness the amir said he hoped that he would pay another visit to New Zealand.

Kuwait

Heir Apparent on ACC, Gulf Shipping, Arab Summit

JN0103172389 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 11

[Interview with His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, by chief editors of Egyptian newspapers in Kuwait on 27 March]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] Some fears have emerged because of the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. What is Your Highness' reaction to these fears?

[Al-Sabah] I speak in my capacity as a Kuwaiti official. We have announced our blessing of the ACC's establishment. As I have just said, I believe that the establishment of any Arab grouping will, in the end, lead to the creation of an all-encompassing Arab grouping that will provide the Arab nation with further immunity and steadfastness. This would also help rally the Arab nation's potentials. Through such an Arab grouping we will be able to highlight the Arabs' importance and allow the Arab voice to be heard by other states which have been working to fragment the Arab nation in order to implement their objectives and schemes.

[Question] Has the relationship between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the ACC been discussed?

[Al-Sabah] At the meeting between his highness the amir of Kuwait and his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, the latter explained to the amir the ACC's objectives as well as the policy that will be pursued by the ACC. Foremost among the issues the ACC will tackled will be those pertaining to economic activities. Official talks between officials of the two councils have not taken place so far. As a matter of fact, we welcome bilateral or multilateral contacts with brother ACC members.

[Question] The USSR has recently made efforts to activate peace efforts between Iraq and Iran. What does Your Highness think of these moves? And how successful will these moves be, Your Highness?

[Al-Sabah] Of course, the USSR has played a big role and exerted persistent and positive efforts to find a formula to end the Iraq-Iran war. Countries other than the USSR have also played a prominent role in convincing Iran that it is high time that it should accept UN Security Council Resolution 598. In the end, Iran accepted the resolution and it was agreed that negotiations between Iraq and Iran will be held in Geneva. No agreement on an 8-year war can be reached in one or two sessions. We have followed the dialogue between Iraqi and Iranian officials as well as the Geneva negotiations which have been halted recently. However, we have information that an agreement was secured on the resumption of negotiations in the United States during the 2d or 3d week of March. We have strong hopes that the negotiating partners will reach a formula for establishing peace and security in this vital part of the world.

[Question] Would Your Highness give us an idea about the outcome of your recent visit to Iraq which lasted for more than 5 days and during which the border issue between the two countries was discussed?

[Al-Sabah] As I have said earlier, my visit to fraternal Iraq materialized because we in Kuwait believe that benefits can be derived from the exchange of visits by officials of Arab states, as these visits bring about understanding and help effect consultation and coordination among Arabs on many political, military, economic, information, and cultural issues. That is why I visited fraternal Iraq and held talks there with brother President Saddam Husayn; brother 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council; and senior officials in fraternal Iraq. I can say that all these meetings and talks with the brothers were good, fruitful, and positive. Besides, we in Kuwait look forward to seeing further cooperation with the Iraqi brothers materialize in many spheres. [passage omitted]

[Question] Your Highness the heir apparent: Some Arabs are frankly wondering why Arab investments, particularly from the oil producers, are deposited in American and European markets rather than in Arab markets?

[Al-Sabah] This baseless rumor does not apply to Kuwait. We have substantial investments in Arab countries which I need not specify. Our investments in the Arab states are substantial and varied.

[Question] Has the end to the Gulf war helped defuse tension and reduce the threat posed to international navigation? And is the time right for a decrease in the foreign presence in the Gulf?

[Al-Sabah] First I will address the first part of your question concerning an easing of tension. We hope the problems and causes that triggered the 8-year war will disappear. I think we have had more than our fair share of anxiety and apprehension in this vital part of the world.

We are happy that the combatants have consented to UN Security Council Resolution No 598. We are closely following the meetings in Geneva and the United States between the interlocutors. We trust that these meetings and negotiations will culminate in success. As for the third part of your question on the naval presence, this subject concerns the major powers. These forces have been here for years and their presence pre-dates the war. They have been in the Gulf, in the Red Sea, and in the Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

[Question] Your Highness the heir apparent: The will of the Afghan people has now been freed. Some problems have cropped up however. What kind of role can the Arab and Muslim world play to help Afghanistan at this critical stage?

[Al-Sabah] I am deeply concerned over the disagreements that have surfaced among the mujahidian leaders in the past few days. I hope from the bottom of my heart the brothers in Afghanistan will agree on a united stand and avoid dissension. If differences among the Afghan mujahidin leaders persist, the present and future of Afghanistan will be adversely affected. I fear that such differences could degenerate, God forbid, into a struggle that would open the way for renewed foreign interference in the country's affairs. I appeal to the brothers in Afghanistan to let the voice of reason prevail and to resort to dialogue rather than the use of arms.

[Question] Is there a need to convene an Arab summit, especially after the establishment of the three Arab groupings, in order to clear the Arab atmosphere in general and to find a formula for convening Arab summit conferences to concert efforts and confront problems?

[Al-Sabah] We in Kuwait have more than once called for a summit meeting. It was decided at the Rabat summit to hold annual summit meetings. Of course, there might be some obstacles which prevent the convocation of an ordianry summit conference. However, we are following up the efforts exerted by King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, and senior Saudi officials in order to prepare the atmosphere for the convocation of this conference. We want to cooperate with our brothers to overcome all difficulties and surmount obstacles which prevent the convocation of an Arab summit.

[Question] How do you view OPEC's future? Can a permanent formula be reached on a unified policy governing oil prices and output quotas?

[Al-Sabah] The present and future OPEC depends on the commitment of the ministers and members of this important organization. By commitment I mean credibility in terms of implementing the recommendations and resolutions on production ceiling and oil prices. I hope that all my brothers will implement these recommendations and resolutions.

[Question] When are we going to see Your Highness in Cairo?

[Al-Sabah] Very soon.

[Question] U.S. President Bush has said that his policy differs from that of his predecessor Reagan in terms of his understanding of the Middle East problem. What is Your Highness' comment?

[Al-Sabah] Positive or negative understanding? I think it is a positive understanding. During my official visit to Washington I met with President Bush more than once, both officially and unofficially. Indeed, we had the time to exchange views on many matters, like, for example, the Middle East problem, the Palestine question, the then raging Iraq-Iran war, the present and future of Lebanon, and the GCC. I found that that he had a sufficient knowledge about all these issues which we discussed in Washington. I also found the man hoping to find a solution or solutions to these problems. [passage omitted]

[Question] Has the crisis that raged between Kuwait and British Petroleum, and what happened earlier at the New York Stock Exchange, led to a reconsideration of investments overseas?

[Al-Sabah] You of course know the British decision on Kuwaiti shares in British Petroleum. However, we in Kuwait tackled this issue very wisely and after consideration and patience. Finally, competent British authorities cancelled their recommendations and issued a new one which falls in line with the Kuwaiti opinion. We welcomed the recent British recommendation very much.

I would like to stay with you longer, but I have to go to the airport to bid President Mubarak farewell. However, I will be happy to meet with you in the future. I welcome you again here. You are in your second home and among your kinfolk. You are welcome and we wish you a successful visit.

Foreign Minister on Lebanon Mediation, Egypt

NC0103161189 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 1 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir said the third stage of the work of the Arab six-man Good Offices Committee on Lebanon will be held in Kuwait on March 17.

Shaykh Sabah said during his meeting today with editors in chief of the Egyptian national and opposition newspapers and magazines attended by MENA Board Chairman and Chief Editor Mustafa Najib, that, during the forthcoming meeting, the committee will hold contact and dialogue with Lebanese political leaderships, adding that there is now hope as everyone in Lebanon wished to salvage the country.

Shaykh Sabah, who chairs the six-man committee, said it will submit following its third round of talks a frank and unbiased report to the Arab League on March 27. He said a summit conference will be held, if the committee should reach something tangible to be a guarantee for a settlement in Lebanon.

Shaykh Sabah said the six-man committee's meetings during its first and second phase were successful and bore good results, adding that these meetings gave the committee specific visualisations on the feasibility of settling the crisis. Shaykh Sabah asserted that the main objective of the committee is to fill the constitutional void in Lebanon.

On the need to clear the Arab atmosphere prior to the holding of an Arab summit, Shaykh Sabah expressed hope for the next Arab summit to be held in Riyadh shortly, adding that two Arab summits had been held despite the existence of Arab differences.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister further expressed hope for a fourth Arab grouping to be formed, asserting that Arab groups represent strength for each other, and are in the interest of the Arab nation's peoples.

Shaykh Sabah said the Palestinian uprising (intifadah) has been exploited at the Arab and Palestinian levels, and said it has highlighted the Palestinian cause which existed since 1947. He urged all the Arab world to boost the uprising.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Shaykh Sabah stressed the importance of a peace agreement to be signed by Iraq and Iran to end the war definitely, adding that this will take place during the two parties future meetings in New York.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister described his country's relations with Iran and Iraq as "good" although it is distinguished with Iraq, stressing Kuwait's keenness to help both parties settle any difference between them.

On the recent Soviet move towards solving the Mideast conflict, Shaykh Sabah said it is a sort of equilibrium between the two super powers.

On the other hand, Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah said during the meeting that Egypt will be invited to take its natural position among Arab brethren during the meetings of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) due to be held in May.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said Egypt has its natural position whether within the OAPEC or within any other Arab organisation, adding that the period during which Egypt's membership in the organisation had been frozen, had not been a normal phase.

On Kuwaiti investments in Egypt, Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah referred to investments in the oil sector which resulted in the discovery of the "Amal" field in the Gulf of Suez, which started operating with an energy of 8,000 barrels daily besides other oil prospecting operations.

The Kuwaiti oil minister said his country is currently thinking of obtaining new concessions in the oil prospecting sphere in Egypt.

PDRY

'Sources' Report Nation To Join ACC in May

JN0203174489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-ITTIHAD—It has become certain that the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen will join the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] after the ACC states conclude their consultations. Observers believe that the consultations will end at the beginning of May.

Informed Jordanian sources said that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the northern part of Yemen, does not object to Aden's joining the ACC. The issue will be on the agenda of the second ACC session to be held in Cairo in May.

Higher Yemeni Council To Review 'Unity Steps'

JN0103190589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The work of the first round of the Higher Yemeni Council Secretariat for 1989 started in Aden this morning under the chairmanship of Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and Standing Committee member, and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for union affairs and Central Committee member in the southern part of the homeland.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit welcomed the brothers, head, and members of the country's northern part in the secretariat. He expressed his hope that this round will manage to evaluate the unity steps that have so far been achieved and to formulate the concepts required to continue unity work. He pointed out that the tasks the secretariat is entrusted with are big and require efforts if they are to be realized, especially since the Sanaa agreement of Ramadan last May set unity work on the threshold of a developed stage. He stressed the need to implement many steps to realize Yemeni unity and merge existing institutions in the two parts.

Then, brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi expressed his joy at the convening of the first round of the Higher Yemeni Council Secretariat for 1989. He indicated that during this round, they will review the unity steps achieved since the last round of the Joint Ministerial Committee. He said he hopes that this round will emerge with positive results promoting unity work between the two parts, especially since it will handling the recommendation of the Yemeni summit's agreement of Ramadan last May. It will also be working on matters concerned with setting up a Yemeni company for oil investments, which will take over the administration of joint investments. All constitutional and legal foundations have already been established for this country. It will also deal with the freedom of movement of Yemeni citizens in their country and the removal of all obstacles to this movement.

Brother al-'Arashi indicated the importance of continuing to implement what was already agreed on in Ramadan. This includes the draft constitution of the union state and the tasks of the Secretariat on this issue. The brother minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity and Standing Committee member affirmed the importance of the preparations that the secretariat will carry out in this round for the Joint Ministerial Committee and later for the Higher Yemeni Council.

He clarified that the Secretariat will be as concerned as the two political leaderships in the two parts under the leadership of Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and his two brothers, 'Ali Salim al-Bid, Central Committee secretary general, and Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, Political Bureau member and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to push unity work toward the aspired goal of reuniting the homeland in light of the two revolutions of September and October.

After that, the Higher Yemeni Council Secretariat started to discuss the agenda for this session. The Secretariat continued its sessions this afternoon.

United Arab Emirates

'Arafat Meets With Finance Minister 2 Mar

JN0203142389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Dubayy, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum, United Arab Emirates finance and industry minister, received this morning PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestine question in the Arab and international arenas. 'Arafat briefed Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid on moves and initiatives to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East and the outcome of international efforts in this area. He also briefed him on developments in the occupied Arab territories after the serious developments in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, namely the arbitrary Zionist practices against the Palestinian people there.

For his part, Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid al-Maktum welcomed the continuation of the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories and the stonethrowing children's steadfastness in the face of both the Israeli military machine and the savagery used against them. His highness stressed the need to support the Palestinian Arab people's intifadah in the occupied territories.

PDRY's Al-Dali Meets With Minister of State

JN0203123689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, United Arab Emirates minister of state for foreign affairs, today met with PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. [passage omitted]

Makes Statement on Talks

JN0203141789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, has said that his talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs of the United Arab Emirates, reviewed relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in the future.

In a statement to WAM, he said they also exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab world and the steps taken to support the Palestinian people's struggle and their blessed intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territories. In addition, efforts to achieve solidarity in the Arab world were discussed.

Replying to a question on PDRY's enrollment into the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], he explained that his country has not made any official request to join this body. However, he said: We are optimistic about any Arab grouping because it will benefit the Arab states. Dr Al-Dali referred to the Yemen Arab Republic's enrollment into the ACC and to the steps taken by the two parts of Yemen to achieve unity. He said: These steps complement one another. He added that if unity between the two parts of Yemen is achieved as soon as possible, then these two parts will become a single state in the ACC. He continued that thus far there has been no decision on his country joining the ACC, pointing out that this will depend on the circumstances.

Departs Abu Dhabi

JN0203153489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, PDRY foreign minister, left Abu Dhabi for home this evening after a brief visit to the United Arab Emirates at the end of a tour of Arab states. Dr al-Dali held talks with Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, on bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Yemen Arab Republic

Japan To Grant 289 Million Yen To Ease Debt

OW0203133489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 2 KYODO—Japan will provide some 289 million yen in grant aid to North Yemen to help ease its debt burden, the Foreign Ministry said. The two countries exchanged diplomatic documents on the assistance in Sanaa, the capital of North Yemen.

UN Observers Spokesman on Iraq-Iran Meeting

JN0203144789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 2 Mar (WAKH)—The UN Iran-Iraq Military Observers Group [UNIIMOG] hopes to set a new date for the meeting of the Iraq-Iran mixed military committee very soon. UNIIMOG spokesman Salim Fahmawi told WAKH here today that meetings are under way for this purpose. He said that the meeting scheduled for 22 February was not canceled but postponed.

The first meeting of the mixed military committee, comprising Iraqi and Iranian officers, was scheduled to take place at a point on the highway between the Iraqi city of Khanaqin and the Iranian city of Qasr-e Shirin under the chairmanship of UNIIMOG commander Slavko Jovic.

Fahmawi, who returned with Jovic from Tehran yesterday, expressed optimism that obstacles to holding the meetings will be removed. Fahmawi did not elaborate on these obstacles; however, he added that they were still working to hold this meeting, which will reinforce the cease-fire. [passage omitted covered]

Last week, UNIIMOG sources said that the main reason for the failure of the meeting between Iraqi and Iranian military personnel to take place—the first since the outbreak of the war in September 1980—was Iranian rejection of the venue.

Fahmawi repeated that the meeting will be held soon, somewhere on the 1,200 km-border between the two countries. He said: We are dutybound to form this committee and hold the first meeting to support the cease-fire, which is now considered very secure.

The UNIIMOG spokesman noted that the UN observers face no major problems now that everything is under control. However, he did not exclude problems resulting from flooding the border areas, which Iraq accused Iran of doing. He said: We are still tackling this.

Fahmawi, who travels weekly between Iraq and Iran, said: During the past 7 months of our work in the area, we helped in the exchange of some hundreds of bodies of Iraqi and Iranian soldiers that were in the no-man's-land between the two countries.

Ramadan, Oil Minister Leave for Turkey 28 Feb

JN2802143389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Feb (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Turkey this afternoon leading a delegation on a visit of several days. He told INA that the purpose of the visit is to expand Iraq's relations with friendly countries and initiate economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation in ways appropriate to present conditions.

He added that the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee for economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation will hold its ninth session during the visit. Both countries have prepared a broad, diverse program to bolster and promote cooperation between the two friendly nations, he said.

Ramadan described Iraqi-Turkish relations as strong and based on a common understanding of the importance of the continuous reinforcement of bilateral relations not only in economic and commercial matters, but also in other fields of cooperation. Iraq and Turkey, he pointed out, are neighbors bound by deep historical and religious ties, sharing a common interest in regional security and stability and in strong relations based on good-neighborliness and broad, fruitful cooperation.

The first deputy prime minister indicated that his discussions with Turkish officials will cover the situation in the region, developments in the Arab world, and the progress of the Iraq-Iran negotiations. Iraq will stress its support for legitimate rights and the need for a genuine, permanent, and comprehensive peace to establish security and stability in the region on a definite and complete basis, he said.

Concluding his statement, Ramadan said that he will apprise Turkish officials of the scope and goals of the Arab Cooperation Council, which comprises Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic. He will stress the importance of this council in strengthening the economy of the four fraternal countries and consequently the Arab economy in general, and in promoting cooperation with the neighboring countries in particular.

Mr Ramadan's delegation is comprised of 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahaim, oil minister and head of the Iraqi side in the joint Iraqi-Turkish committee, Nizar Hamdun, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials from the concerned ministries.

Delegation Returns 2 Mar

JN0203181189 Baghdad INA in English 1745 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, Mar. 2, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council, first deputy premier and the delegation accompanying him this evening returned here after a three-day visit to Turkey.

In a statement to INA at the airport, Mr. Ramadan expressed satisfaction over results of his visit and the positive atmospheres that prevailed [in] the two sides talks which reflected the strong close relations between the two neighbourly countries and depth of their ties and also the common desire to continue cementing relations of cooperation and friendship.

Mr. Ramadan said the Iraqi-Turkish relations would witness growth and expansion during the current and future stages pointing out that talks with Turkish officials also covered conditions in the region and Arab issues and that he had briefed them on developments of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations.

The first deputy premier added that he had acquanited Turkish officials with Iraq's external policy on the Arab and international levels in the economic and political fields.

INA Cites Ramadan on Meeting

JN0103180589 Baghdad INA in English 1735 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Ankara, Mar. 1, INA—Turkish President Kenan Evren today received here Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, now on a visit to Turkey.

Speaking to INA after the meeting, Mr. Ramadan said his talks with President Evren tackled issues of common interest leading among which developments of the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and Iraq's firm position in commitment to the principles of just and comprehensive peace. The talks also touched on the founding of the Arab Cooperation Council as a positive and effective step along achieving stability in the region and joint Arab action.

Mr. Ramadan further added that the talks also dwelt on the close bilateral relations which are based on friendship, neighbourhood and common interests and means for promoting them in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The meeting was attended by Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal and Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi and the Turkish minister of finance and custom.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Bahrain, Morocco

JN2702082089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left for Manama this morning as the envoy of President Saddam Husayn, the current chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council, on a tour that will also include Morocco. During the tour, the Iraqi presidential envoy will convey messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, chairman of the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Moroccan King Hassan II, chairman of the Arab Maghreb Union.

Returns 2 Mar

JN0103205489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad tonight after a visit to Bahrain and Morocco. [passage omitted]

Ba'th Party, YAR Group Hold Talks in Baghdad

JN0103125089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1210 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Mar (INA)—Talks between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the General People's Congress in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] began here today. Ba'th Party Regional Command member Hasan 'Ali led the Iraqi team while Standing Committee Secretary Dr Ahmad Muhammad al-Asbahi was the senior YAR representative.

During the first session, the two sides discussed the Ba'th Party experiment in Iraq and that of the General People's Congress in the YAR. The two sides also praised the launching of the Arab Cooperation Council and stressed that it will be a rallying point for the establishment comprehensive Arab unity on a lasting basis.

Vice President Ma'ruf Returns From Japan

JN2702211189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president of the Republic, returned tonight after participating in the funeral of late Japanese Emperor Hirohito. During the visit, the vice president met with leaders of several delegations attending the funeral. Talks concerned enhancing relations of bilateral cooperation between Iraq and these countries, Iraq's position on Arab and world affairs, and the importance of the Arab Cooperation Council.

Assembly Candidates To Receive Equal Time

JN2702201689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Feb (INA)—It was announced here today that all National Assembly candidates will have equal opportunities to use all Iraqi news media. The higher commission supervising the elections has entrusted the Ministry of Culture and Information with providing the means of election advertising to the candidates in a way that ensures equal opportunities to all in using the various news media. The commission also decided that each daily newspaper will issue a special supplement on elections whose cost will be borne by the state. Moreover, the television will broadcast during a certain period of time all the pictures and biographies of candidates published in these papers. [passage omitted]

USSR Call for UN Mediator Not Ruled Out

TA0303114789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Official circles in Jerusalem do not rule out the Soviet proposal for a UN mediator on the Middle East, but have basic reservations about the form of the proposal. They told reporter Jack Katzenell Israel is committed to the principle of direct negotiations and tends to be wary of mediators. Moreover, the Soviet Union envisages the mediator's function as preparation for an international conference on the Middle East, a format which Israel rejects. If the mediator's function was confined to assisting and promoting direct negotiations, the sources said, this might be acceptable to Israel.

The proposal for a UN mediator was announced by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in an interview in PRAVDA. He said the Soviet Union had already decided to ask the United Nations to appoint the mediator.

'Second Thoughts' on Arens-Shevardnadze Meeting

TA0203152889 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 2 Mar 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by Yohanan Lahav]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Some "second thoughts" in Jerusalem regarding the Arens-Shevardnadze encounter in Cairo: Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was surprised by his Soviet counterpart's "harsh formulations" contained in the latter's remarks to reporters the day after Arens' visit.

Shevardnadze told the reporters that the PLO and its leader Yasir 'Arafat should be party to every stage of the political process, and that the only path to solution lies through the international conference.

In reaction to these remarks, sources in Jerusalem said that if the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Soviet Union is contingent on Israeli agreement to an international conference, then Israel will not consent to any Soviet involvement in the Middle East peace process—as Shevardnadze had already been told in Cairo.

"Our position is that no universal consent is necessary for the resumption of full relations," Arens told Shevardnadze. The Soviet foreign minister replied that the Soviet Union is seeking a move that would not cause violent Arab reactions, to which Arens retorted: "We find it inconceivable that a superpower would accept dictates from Arab countries."

Therefore, Shevardnadze's statement the following day came as a surprise to the foreign minister. The estimation had been that Shevardnadze would come out with a more positive statement with regard to Israel. According to one version, he even intended to announce the resumption of diplomatic relations with Israel, changing his mind after Israel expressed its vehement objection to the international conference.

Furthermore, since the foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo, no progress has been made with respect to the planned meeting of Israeli and Soviet experts, which, according to Shevardnadze, "would perhaps take place in the very near future."

No communication has been received to date from the Soviets with regard to the meeting. Sources in Jerusalem have said that Israel is interested in the meeting, but "is in no rush."

The Israeli experts have not been appointed yet. Appointments will be made if and when a Soviet request is received.

As for another meeting between the foreign ministers, that, too, seems less attainable today than it did last week.

USSR Minister, Syria To Discuss Arms Supplies

TA0303075089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Mar 89 pp 1, 14

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Soviet Defence Minister Dimitriy Yazov is to visit Damascus next week in an attempt to defuse Syrian-Soviet tensions concerning arms supplies, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Yazov is expected to try to reach agreement with Syria on Soviet arms supplies. According to the sources, Damascus has expressed displeasure regarding their quantity and quality.

Yazov's visit is seen as another manifestation of the Soviet desire to promote its relations with both Syria and the PLO, a direction which analysts believe was apparent during Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's tour of the region last week.

The sources noted that the success of Yazov's visit is likely to determine the fate of President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Damascus, which, according to Western sources, was discussed when Shevardnadze was in the Syrian capital last week. [passage omitted]

40,000 Jews Expected To Leave USSR in 1989

TA0203152189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 89 p 3

[ITIM report]

[Text] Some 2,447 Jews left the Soviet Union in February, of which 2,117 dropped out in the Vienna transit station to go to the United States. The remaining 330 immigrated to Israel, some of them aboard direct flights from Russia via Bucharest. These figures were released by Uri Gordon, director of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department.

In February, some 549 Christians were among those leaving the Soviet Union with Israeli visas.

According to estimates, over 3,000 Jews will be allowed to leave the Soviet Union in March. Gordon believes that by the end of 1989 the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union will reach 40,000.

Military Commander Meets With Gaza Notables

TA0203171089 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Gaza—Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command; the head of the Gaza Civil Administration; and Mordekhay's Arab affairs advisor met with 10 Gaza notables yesterday, including Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Dr Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, Dr Ahmad al-Yazchi, Dr Zakariyya al-Agha, As'ad al-Saftawi, Al-Hajj Hashim 'Ata al-Shawwa, Khalid al-Qidra, pharmacist Muhammad Zayn al-Din, Dr Mahmud al-Zuhar, and attorney Muhammad Abu Sha'ban.

The discussions were held in total frankness and candor. The participants in the meeting stressed to Mordekhay that 15 months after the outbreak of the uprising, the problem has become clear and it is now obvious that the Palestinian people have basic demands which are summed up in Israeli withdrawal, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The participants also affirmed that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative and that the issue is not one of daily affairs and problems, or practices, but that of an entire people.

The commander of the Southern Command replied that he is only a military commander and not a political leader, and that he is not authorized to discuss these matters. He is, however, authorized to convey these viewpoints to the political authorities.

Mordekhay said that the army has used only 1 percent of its force and that it is still committed to quelling and can quell the uprising.

He added that there will not be a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip even if a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem is found, and that the uprising will not make Israel capitulate to Palestinian demands.

Mordekhay told those present that he has given orders to the army to ease up on firing, that he has ordered the port be opened to fishermen, that in the coming days he will act to decrease the army's presence in order to avoid friction with the population, and that he will release some detainees.

Deal With Palestinians Denied

TA0303123189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
3 Mar 89 p 3

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Avi Bnayahu]

[Excerpts] Arab sources claim that Israel Defense Forces [IDF] officers in the territories are offering PLO supporters a deal in which if the intifadah [uprising] were to die down, the IDF would withdraw its forces from the urban centers, a massive release of administrative detainees from the Qezi'ot detention camp would follow, and the IDF would implement a series of far-reaching steps to ease the pressure on the residents of the territories.

According to these sources, the proposals were mainly raised in the Gaza Strip in meetings with PLO supporters yesterday and the day before. [passage omitted]

It was difficult, however, to confirm these details at Civil Administration headquarters. The spokesman of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria made clear that no deals are being proposed to PLO activists in his region.

Speaking to our correspondent yesterday, official military sources denied that the commander of the Southern Command or any officer speaking on his behalf offered Palestinian elements a release of detainees or a withdrawal of army forces in return for stopping the uprising; however, they confirmed the fact that such meetings took place and said: "The commander of the Southern Command and the head of the Civil Administration are holding regular meetings with residents of the Gaza Strip at various levels. This week's meeting with Gaza figures was held in this framework, and Major General Mordekhay proposed, as he has in the past, that the uprising be stopped to allow talks in the spirit of Defense Minister Rabin's policy and his well-known plan. In any event, no discussion concerning the release of administrative detainees or the removal of army forces from urban centers took place. These meetings are only meant to assess the mood of the residents."

Bar-Lev Denies PLO Contacts on 'Uprising'

JN0303114689 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab
World 1030 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Report on interview with Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by 'Umar Zaydani carried on "With the Midday Events" program—date and place not given]

[Text] Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev has refuted reports on contacts with the PLO to reach a formula to put an end to the acts of disturbing public order and to restore calm to the West Bank and Gaza. He said: For that purpose, there is no need for any negotiations with the PLO. He who started the intifadah [uprising] has to decide to halt it.

Bar-Lev says talks with the PLO can only deal with the establishment of a Palestinian state, but as 85 percent or maybe more of the Israelis reject that, there will be nothing to discuss with the PLO. Bar-Lev affirmed that Israel will not hold negotiations on any issue on which it does not want to negotiate. Therefore, it will not hold negotiations on a Palestinian state with anyone.

Islamic Movement Figure on Election Successes

JN0203163189 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Immediately following the announcement of the preliminary election results in Umm al-Fahm and the victory of the Islamic Movement in Umm al-Fahm, hundreds of Umm al-Fahm residents rushed to the Islamic Movement's headquarters cheering Shaykh Ra'id Mahajinah, chanting Koranic verses, and raising green flags. Later, Islamic Movement supporters met in another building and congratulated Shaykh Mahajinah. They staged a march in Umm al-Fahm's streets and celebrations of the Islamic Movement's victory continued into the small hours of this morning.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] No doubt your success as a leader of the Islamic Movement in Umm al-Fahm raises many questions in Jewish society, among the ordinary Jews, and within the Israeli Government and authorities about possible extremism in Umm al-Fahm and fears concerning your dealing with the Israeli authorities. What is your reaction to this?

[Mahajinah] Our reaction is clear. No doubt, our presence in a municpality like that of Umm al-Fahm will place our mode of action within the municipal law, which governs the workers in the municipality, both mayor and members of the municipal council, and which governs the citizens within the Umm al-Fahm municipal area. We will act within this law, and we will deal with the official circles and authorities also within this law.

[Reporter] In what way?

[Mahamjinah] Within the framework of the existing law. The law defines means of dealing with the official circles and we, God willing, will follow this law in our day-to-day life. We will also deal with the citizens within this law.

[Reporter] In your opinion, with the spreading of this trend, could this lead to a kind of extremism, to Khomeyniite trends in Israel?

[Mahajinah] We tend to adopt the Koran and the prophet's tradition in our morals, habits, clothes, and behavior. Undoubtedly, these trends are the only ones we know, the only ones which we try to preserve, God willing. This is based on what God says: Invite all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious. [Koranic verses] It is essential to emphasize in this regard that our presence within a municipal administration in Umm al-Fahm does not mean that we will compel people to observe certain religious habits and manifestations. The framework within which we deal with people in the hope that they will return to Islam is the Koranic law in which we have been dealing with people for the past 10 years—namely, inviting all to the way of the Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching and arguing with them in ways that are best and most gracious.

[Reporter] You will not restrict the freedom of the citizens in Umm al-Fahm?

[Reporter] We will continue good preaching, invoking Koranic tenets and guidance. Thereafter, we hope that the people's religion will prompt them, voluntarily, to obey God the Almighty.

Role in Elections Welcomed

TA0203145189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 89 p 6

[Commentary by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Fundamentalism and the Political Game"]

[Text] The Islamic Movement's impressive entry into Israeli politics, thanks to its success in the municipal elections in the Triangle, must arouse concern, but it is not "the end of the world." Still, we must follow Islamic trends in Israel's Arab sector closely.

The hasty calls to outlaw the Islamic Movement are mistaken. The movement's activists must be judged according to their actions and not according to what they might be thinking deep in their hearts. Democracy is judged not by its attitude to accepted and pleasant views, but by the way it deals with provocative world outlooks.

Basically, the success of the Islamic movements in Israel and the territories stems from the difficulty encountered by the Arab national movement in finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. The image of secular nationalism's helplessness became sharper recently after the PLO recognized the State of Israel and expressed its readiness to give up parts of Palestine within the Green Line, an about-face in principle that did not, however, gain the proper response from the Israeli Government. The lesson is that compromise does not pay, and that there is no choice but to return to extremism. In any case, that is the basic feeling in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. There is now almost no one who doubts that as time passes—with youths in the territories being wounded daily while the PLO shows no real achievements—that the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] is gaining momentum.

Of course, one must differentiate between Israeli Arabs and the Palestinians in the territories. One must, however, remember that Kafr Qasim and Umm al-Fahm, where the Islamic list had its biggest successes, are close to the Islamic strongholds on the other side of the Green Line in Qalqilyah and Tulkarm. Only 6 months ago, it turned out that the Islamic Movement's publications in Qalqilyah were printed in Israel's Triangle under the aegis of the Israeli Islamic Movement.

The leaders of the Supreme Muslim Council in East Jerusalem are tightening relations with Israeli Muslims, and Shaykh Sa'd al-Din al-'Alami, the council head, has become a frequent guest of Israeli Muslims, who in turn are frequent visitors at the council's office in the Al-Aqsa compound. That does not mean that the shaykh is active in subversive activities, but that the Israeli Arabs' awareness of an "Islamic solution" is gaining ground among their brethren in the territories.

Nevertheless, it is still to early to determine that the Islamic Movement in Israel is in fact the Israeli branch of the intifadah [uprising] in the territories and merely an adjunct of Hamas.

In Israel there is generally a growing religious awareness, first and foremost among the Jews, and if anti-Zionist fundamentalism is growing stronger among religious Jews, how can we demand that the Islamic fundamentalists "be Zionists?"

We must be aware of the danger that Islamic fundamentalism might become a serious challenge to pragmatic forces among Israeli Arabs, but the issue must not be over how to outlaw them. What must be done is to start dealing with problems that are of concern to Israeli Arabs, and to find a political formula that will end the intifadah and its serious repercussions on Israeli Arab thinking.

We must also take into account the fact that Islamic fundamentalism is gaining a great deal of prestige in the whole Middle East. It seems that Iran's failure in its war against Iraq has not been reflected in a loss of popularity. The USSR's failure in Afghanistan strengthened Islamic fundamentalism prestige that had been lost in the Gulf war. It is only natural that this would find an expression among Israeli Muslims. The extent of the success comes from the special problems being faced by Israeli Muslims and their emotional ties to their Palestinian brethren in the territories.

Nevertheless, we should take into account the fact that Islamic views do not permit the PLO to reach a compromise with Israel. There are religious leaders in the territories who have displayed moderate political stands; their voices are still being heard, although they are not dominant. One of them, Shaykh al-Khazander in Gaza, paid with his life for his firm support for the peace accord between Israel and Egypt.

It is still not clear whether the Israeli Islamic Movement will become a force for moderation. An encouraging sign can be found in the decision to compete in the municipal elections. Its very participation is a sign of recognition of Israel and of a readiness to accept the rules of the game of Israeli democracy. After jumping into the water, it has to learn how to swim. It might undergo a process similar to that which the Jewish anti-Zionist fundamentalist movements underwent; these now take a legitimate part in the Israeli political game despite their opposition in principle to the very idea of a Jewish state.

In fact, Islam's moderating trend is now in progress. In 1980, Islam appeared in Triangle villages as a terrorist body organized within the Islamic Jihad framework. The subversive cells were discovered in time and there was no other attempt to organize within a military setup. Their overt political activities and readiness to participate in Israel's political game—and not destroy it—contains a thread of hope for the future.

Likud Victory in Local Elections Analyzed

TA0203160989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Mar 89 p 14

[Commentary by Ilan Shehori: "Likud's Second Upheaval"]

[Excerpts] The upheaval effected by the Likud in the local elections can lead to at least one direct national-scale result: the strengthening of the unity government and at least a temporary postponement of the plans of some Labor Party leaders to use the antagonism between the Likud and the religious parties for setting up an Alignment government through early elections or for changing the government coalition's composition.

The election results have again raised the demand for a thorough probe of the Labor Party and for a soul-searching settling of accounts with the leadership that would include the results of the Knesset elections. At the same time, the Likud, drunk with its latest triumph, is now setting the next task: elections to the Histadrut.

An analysis of the local election results cannot ignore two other central factors. One is the rise of the ultraorthodox parties, a trend which began with their great achievement in the recent Knesset elections. This time, their success was reflected in their increased strength in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. The other factor is the upheaval in the Arab sector, where the Zionist parties were pushed aside by the radical Islamic Movement, which achieved remarkable results.

In recent weeks a feeling of impending failure in the municipal elections prevailed in the Labor Party. In the early hours of Wednesday morning, however, even the headquarters at Hayarqon Street in Tel Aviv did not expect a substantive defeat or the profound change that took place in the local councils. The failure was felt even more poignantly when it was learned that cities which for so many years had symbolized Alignment rule in the country fell into the Likud's hands. These are the "red cities," such as Petah Tiqva, Holon, and Beersheba. Even if the final count gives the Alignment's Gur'el the few percentage points he requires to retain Haifa for another 5 years, it is impossible to ignore the fact that the Likud was close to a sensational victory even in this city, which had been termed the Labor Party's "flagship." The Likud also scored an achievement in tripling the number of its representatives on the municipal council.

The major question is, of course, whether the election results were influenced by the Likud's and Labor's political stands; whether the voting was done on a political-partisan basis, or whether the voters managed to draw the line on the amount that politics would affect their decision, to decide each issue on its merit, and to elect the appropriate candidate. It is obvious that the Likud now wishes to present the election results as a referendum or a vote of confidence in their partisan-political line. Labor, on the other hand, seeks to prove that the issue at stake is no more than local struggles only marginally influenced by the major parties' political stands.

The fact that for the first time in 12 years the Likud has succeeded in projecting its victory in the national elections to local plebiscites cannot be ignored. The cities in which the Likud scored major successes in the Knesset elections have had Labor mayors in recent years. Almost all these cities have now succumbed to Likud candidates. Naturally, wherever the Labor or Likud candidates for local elections were prominent figures, as was the case in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and even Herzliyya and Rishon Leziyyon, the struggle focused on local issues. In local councils whose candidates were unknown figures with seemingly equal potential, the results were determined by the candidates' political affiliation. [passage omitted]

Labor Party figures are now trying to blame the failure on the local party branches, on the abundance of election lists, and on the lists that engaged in mutual hostilities. This, at least, is what Shim'on Peres, Labor Party chairman and vice prime minister, contended yesterday. Outgoing Labor Party Secretary General 'Uzi Bar'am, however, attempted to explain the defeat by pointing a finger at public disappointment with the Labor Party and with the fact that it had joined the unity government headed by Shamir. Be that as it may, the local election results have apparently reopened the Labor Party's Pandora's box. Rivalries dating back to the Knesset election era, which have so far been swept under the carpet so as not to harm the local elections, are now certain to emerge in their full glory.

The opening note was sounded yesterday by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, one of those who regard themselves as Shim'on Peres' heirs in the next election campaign. Shahal called for an urgent Central Committee convention where an internal soul-searching, along with a thorough reorganization of the Labor Party, would be launched. What Labor now fears is the upcoming Histadrut elections. There were some who said yesterday that it would be preferable if the elections were indeed postponed from May to November. The Alignment now fears that the Likud, which has proved its organizational ability, will take the Histadrut elections equally seriously. The least the Likud will do, the party fears, is to take away Labor's absolute majority in the Histadrut. And indeed, after the victory celebration at Likud headquarters last Tuesday night, some Likud leaders said that after this second round of elections, the next target is the Histadrut elections. There were some who even named Transport Minister Moshe Qatzav as the man capable of leading the Likud to great achievements in these elections.

In the elections to municipal councils, the Likud wanted to prove that the Knesset election results were not accidental and that support for the Likud is deeply entrenched in the Israeli public.

The Likud also wished to prove to itself that it is a ruling party in every respect, as well as the largest movement in Israel. It is true that the struggle in some local councils is not over yet and that a second round will be held there in 2 weeks. Judging by the results which came in yesterday, however, the Likud has an obvious advantage in these places, too. With the exception of one or two towns, the Likud may well take over the second-round towns, thus completing the upheaval in the municipal authorities.

Connection With Egyptian Power Network Discussed

*TA0203165589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 2 Mar 89*

[Report by 'Ezra Yanuv on a 2 March tour of the Ashqelon power station by President Hayim Herzog and Minister Moshe Shahal]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal invited the president to inaugurate, when the time comes, the power stations in Ashqelon and Hadera. The decision to build the new power stations in these locations was made today.

The energy minister had a message to impart:

[Begin Shahal recording] It can be assumed that in the very near future a meeting will take place between the Egyptian electricity and energy minister and ourselves. The issue on the agenda will be the connection of the Egyptian and Israeli electricity networks, a proposal Egypt has endorsed in principle. Egypt is now about to sign a similar agreement with Jordan.

The Tabah problem having been solved, I am calling on the parties to effect a tripartite connection to include Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. [end recording]

Rabin on 'Uprising,' Talks With Palestinians

*PM0303105689 London BBC Television Network
in English 2230 GMT 28 Feb 89*

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by BBC reporter Margaret Gilmore in Tel Aviv, monitored in progress in the framework of BBC 2 "Newsnight;" no date given—recorded]

[Text] [Gilmore] So far nearly 400 Palestinians have been killed in the 15 months of intifadah [uprising]; 10,000 others injured. Seventeen Israelis have also died.

The man responsible for dealing with the violence is Israel's defense minister, Yitzhaq Rabin. His ironfist policy against the intifadah has brought worldwide criticism. It's also alarmed the doves in his own Labor Party, though they do welcome a peace plan he's put forward advocating elections and self-government in the occupied territories. The doves say this plan has encouraged them to hold a series of meetings with leading Palestinians in the past week. Mr Rabin believes progress can only be made internally and not through pressure from the two superpowers or Europe. I visited him at his defense headquarters in Tel Aviv and asked him first how he justified the use of weapons against a largely unarmed Palestinian uprising.

[Rabin] Well, whenever there is a use, on a large scale, of violence—even if, even if it looks like a civilian violence, using of stone throwing, petrol bottles, uh, blocked roads, knives, kidnapping, uh—for far-reaching political goals, you have got either one of the two choices: to give in to violence or to meet the violence by force. We do it by force, and it's very unfortunate that we have to do it, but we are committed to one guiding principle that we learned the hard way since Israel gained its independence: not to give in to violence. Solution: around a negotiation table.

[Gilmore] Now, Mr Rabin, the PLO in recent months has renounced terrorism and has recognized Israel's right to exist. With such compromises on their part, is it not now time for Israel to start making compromises on her part?

[Rabin] Regardless to what they said verbally, for all practical purposes, terror continues in practically the same way that it was carried out before the last statement. On the other hand, I agree with you that Israel has to offer a political solution. I came with an idea to move through four phases to where ultimate solution of the conflict on our Eastern border. First phase, tranquillity, 3 to 6 months; second phase, elections by the Palestinians in the territories from themselves...

[Gilmore, interrupting] Mr Rabin, the Palestinians...

[Rabin, interrupting] ...and...

[Gilmore, interrupting] ...have categorically rejected the idea of elections and say that their chosen representatives are the PLO.

[Rabin] I tend to believe that the Palestinians in the territories that lead in the struggle and carry the burden of suffering—and believe me, they suffer—they would like to see the light at the end of the tunnel; they are more pragmatic in their attitude towards solution than are 'Arafat or the gang of him [as heard] from Tunisia. I believe they will find more readiness on their part to embark on the course of negotiations.

[Gilmore] There are doves in your party who would say that, in fact, you are simply opening the way for talks with the PLO; for example, you sent your adviser to see Faysal al-Husayni when he was in jail, just before he was released; and yet he was jailed for apparently being a PLO activist. Having spoken to him, would it be that difficult, then, to go one step further and talk to the PLO?

[Rabin] Well, those who say that talking to the leaders of the Palestinians in the territories is like talking to the PLO... Why, therefore, the PLO opposes this idea? I clearly distinguish, as I said: With them, we have to talk. They are here; they live here; they are 1.5 million people; therefore, with them, it's OK. The gang of Tunisia—no.

[Gilmore] Are there any circumstances in which you would talk to the PLO?

[Rabin] I'm ready to talk to any Palestinian that denies his commitment by the Palestinian covenant; that would like to have peace with Israel; that he denounce and does not participate in violence until...

[Gilmore, interrupting] Has Yasir 'Arafat not done that?

[Rabin] Not at all.

[Gilmore] But he says he has. He says he has renounced violence; he recognizes Israel's right to exist...

[Rabin, interrupting] He calls for continuation of the uprising in the territories; he calls for escalation; he calls for using [word indistinct] against what he calls Israeli military targets in Israel in the territories, including from Lebanon. He has never renounced violence and terrorism.

[Gilmore] Under what circumstances, then, would you speak to Yasir 'Arafat? What must he do so that you would speak to him?

[Rabin] With the PLO, we'll not negotiate.

[Gilmore] The prime minister, Mr Shamir, has, like yourself, said no to negotiations directly with the PLO. He's also said no to giving away land in return for peace. Do you take this line or do you think there should be a compromise on the land issue?

[Rabin] I'm ready to make territorial compromises, but this in the context of the ultimate solution. I believe that any agenda to jump to the ultimate solution will lead nowhere.

[Gilmore] Are you saying that you do eventually—eventually—see a Palestinian state side by side with an Israeli State?

[Rabin] By no means.

[Gilmore] Then what do you mean by compromising on land?

[Rabin] I believe that there is no room to another independent state between Israel and Jordan. Creation of such a state will not solve anything, will serve as a time bomb that will drag the Middle East to another war. Therefore, the way that the Labor Party sees it—not now: towards the ultimate solution, after moving through the phases—a possibility of a federation of what will remain from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip; and send the bulk of the Palestinians that will still reside there as a part of another... the state, a Jordanian-Palestinian state divided to cantons, or even federation with Israel.

Shamir: PLO Keeps Initiating 'Acts of Terror'

TA0303085289 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Mar 89 p 1

[Report by Yohanan Lahav, Bina Barzel, and Dan Sade]

[Text] "Despite the fact that 'Arafat explicitly promised the United States that the PLO would stop terrorist activities against Israel, yesterday's infiltration attempt constitutes yet further proof that this organization continues to initiate acts of terror," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday.

Shamir added: "By doing so, the PLO is making a laughingstock of its commitments to stop terrorism."

The prime minister noted that "two of the major organizations inside the PLO—Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—clearly state that 'Arafat's commitment does not apply to them. They say they will continue to carry out terrorist activities against Israel."

Prime Minister Shamir congratulated the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces for their success in foiling the terrorist squad infiltration attempt.

Effect of 'Uprising' on Air Force Units Noted

TA0203154689 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 1 Mar 89 p 11

[Report by Sharon Sade]

[Summary] At the beginning of the uprising in the territories, the activities of all Israel Defense Forces [IDF] units were disrupted, necessitating a redeployment in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. "This also affected the Air Force, which was forced to operate Bell Model-212 helicopters from various squadrons on a very large scale. The helicopters conducted patrols and dispersed demonstrators with the aid of various means developed for this."

The vast use of these helicopters disrupted regular activities. Reports compiled showed "the negative effects caused by the inefficient use of the troops."

"As time went by and the real extent of the uprising sank in, standing orders were drafted allocating airborne means according to circumstances; the aim was to obviate the unnecessary use of helicopters. These orders, which are currently in effect, do not seriously disrupt the routine operations of the various squadrons."

An unnamed Air Force colonel says "the Air Force presently operates according to the constraints in the field and the guidelines of staff officers."

"Dornier-228 helicopters carrying military scouts equipped with binoculars are currently used in the territories for daily routine patrols, particularly in the Gaza area." "The Bell-212 squadrons remain on alert in the event of massive riots."

"The regulated use of the forces decreases operational fatigue and increases reaction flexibility."

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

3 Wounded in Gaza

TA0203185589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] A petrol bomb was thrown this afternoon at a car traveling on the Pat-Gilo road in Jerusalem. The firebomb failed to ignite. No one was injured and no damage was caused. The police combed the area.

Arab sources report that three residents of the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip were wounded in clashes with soldiers today. The Army is investigating the claim.

Our reporter says a number of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip have decided to erect electronic fences around their settlements.

2 'Terrorist' Cells Uncovered

TA0303055289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The security forces have uncovered two terrorist cells in Judaea and Samaria. They destroyed the homes of seven of the suspects, and another home was sealed. The cell in Samaria is suspected of being behind the murder of a local resident who was reportedly cooperating with Israel and of throwing a firebomb into the home of the mukhtar of the village of Sanniriyah. Both cells were said to be active in attacks on Israeli vehicles traveling in the areas.

In Gaza, rooms in three homes belonging to members of the local committee for the uprising have been sealed. The rooms belong to local residents suspected of taking part in anti-Israeli activities, including the burning of a bus taking workers to Israel and the throwing of firebombs at the Ministry of the Interior office in Gaza.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 2 March reports that "the Gaza military court today sentenced four youths to 9 months in jail for throwing stones at Israeli cars. They were also given a suspended sentence of between 10 and 15 months, plus a fine."]

3 Soldiers Imprisoned

TA0303095289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 89 p A4

[Text] Last week, three more reserve soldiers were tried and imprisoned for refusing service in the territories.

Private Yohanan Margalit of Kibbutz Ma'anit, 42, married and father of three, was given a 28-day prison term. Private Carlos Levinhoff, a 42-year-old journalist from Tel Aviv, married and a father of two, was sentenced to 35 days in prison. Lieutenant J.R., age 28, was handed a 21-day prison sentence.

At present, six reservists are doing time in military prison for refusing service beyond the Green Line. Since the beginning of the uprising, 61 reserve soldiers have been tried on this charge.

Hunger Strike Held at Qezi'ot

TA0303100389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Mar 89 p A3

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] All the detainees in the Qezi'ot (Ansar 3) detention camp are staging a hunger strike to protest their detention conditions. This was reported by the administrative detainees' attorneys, who visited their clients over the past few days. The strike started Sunday, 26 February, in one of the detention center blocks and spread throughout the center during the week. The rest of the detainees joined the hunger strike on 1 March. The attorneys claim that their clients told them that since the strike began, none of them has undergone a medical checkup.

The administrative detainees (some 1,100 people) sent a letter to what they call the progressive forces in Israel, explaining the reasons for their hunger strike.

Their main claims refer to: low quality and quantity of food; prevention of family visits; extensions of detention orders against some of them to successive second and third detention periods; torture and abuse; use of tear gas, beatings, water jets, and rubber and live bullets against their gatherings, demonstrations, and so on.

The letter, addressed to "the progressive forces in Israel," includes greetings to all Israelis who have expressed support for and disapproval of detention conditions. "We are calling on you to stand by our side on this hunger strike as well. It is meant to protect us. We hereby declare that we are firm in our belief in our rights and our preference to die for them rather than be held in these monstrous camps," the letter says.

Official military sources yesterday confirmed the fact that a strike is being staged, but rejected the detainees' claims.

Paper Closed Down

TA0303104589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Another Arab sector paper—the second since the beginning of the uprising—has been closed down. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that following the closure of Nazareth's AL-JAMAHIR, the Sons of the Village Movement organ AL-RAYA, published in Umm al-Fahm, was closed down today.

The closure order was signed by 'Amram Kalazi, the Northern District commissioner in the Interior Ministry, and was explained by the fact that the paper is financed and supervised by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. AL-RAYA editors denied the charge.

PLO's Failure To Control Factions Criticized

JN0203165089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1245 GMT 2 Mar 89

[From "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" by Sha'ul Menashe]

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, a PLO official, has announced in Baghdad that the PLO should not be expected to be able to control all the organizations and factions affiliated to it.

The statement made by Qaddumi, also known as Abu al-Lutf, provides nothing new. That the 'Arafat organization is unable to control all PLO factions is an established and well-known fact.

However, what is strange and odd is that the 'Arafat organization has persisted in claiming that it is the sole representative of all Palestinians and that nobody other than this organization can represent the Palestinians or speak on their behalf. In this regard, Yasir 'Arafat went to the extent of threatening personally to fire 10 bullets into the chest of the one who differs with him or makes statements conflicting with the resolutions adopted by his leadership. This shows that not all organizations and factions are under his control or act upon the directives issued by him.

Finally, there is a glaring contradiction between 'Arafat's claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinians and his inability to exercise control.

Shomron Remarks on Defense Doctrine Questioned

TA2702115189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Feb 89 p 5

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Low Expectations"]

[Text] The chief of staff was right in saying that "victory or defeat on a battlefield is a psychological matter."

Military history is full of proof of the following statement that Lieutenant General Dan Shomron made yesterday in a lecture: "An army is defeated when it feels it can no longer bear it..." rather than being defeated by objective circumstances.

Precisely for this reason, the chief of staff must not assume—and certainly must not say so in public—that being incapable of withstanding a prolonged war, the IDF is forced to attack and achieve a rapid outcome.

This statement, which has been publicized among reserve and regular army soldiers, creates a most dangerous psychological conditioning; it may become a self-fulfilling prophecy in the next war—if, God forbid, one takes place.

And then what? Will the State of Israel have to ask for a cease-fire and submit to political dictates since its politicians and the enemy know in advance—this is what the present defense doctrine's basic premises contend—that the IDF is unable to endure a long war?

The truth is that the IDF is able to endure a long war if it does take a defensive stand. At a later stage, if required, it would even be capable of moving to an offensive—on the condition that there is a national consensus and that motivation is at its peak.

Dan Shomron, too, is well aware of this, yet in a strange way, he tried yesterday to lower his listeners' expectations from what the IDF can achieve in the next war if it does not attack and achieve a rapid outcome.

Why? Does the chief of staff fear that because of the intifadah [uprising], the political echelons' foul-ups, and internal strife, the IDF will enter the next war without a national consensus and with eroded motivation? If that is the case, he must gather the courage to say so explicitly and frankly.

Another mystifying point is his statement that the IDF reserves and regular army's motivation is built on "a feeling of mortal danger." Has the chief of staff forgotten that the IDF and other armies have achieved their most glorious victories when their soldiers believed in the justness of their way and in the cause for which they were fighting? How odd that in lecturing on the IDF's defense doctrine, the chief of staff should forget this significant point.

Bank of Israel Issues 1988 Report on Currency

TA0103194189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Israel's foreign currency reserves rose sharply last month. The government also siphoned off nearly 600 million shekels from the public. Harley Braidman reports:

Israel's foreign currency reserves last month rose by $426 million to a total of $5.56 billion. Since the January devaluation, the reserves have increased by nearly $2 billion. The Bank of Israel today published its financial report for 1988 showing that its income from foreign currency dropped from $766 million in 1987 to only $124 million last year. Bank of Israel Governor Mikha'el Bruno explained that the decline was due to the bank adopting a more conservative policy last year due to the fluctuations in the dollar's value, and that no serious economist predicted that the dollar would rise in value by 11 percent against the other currencies.

Replying to criticism that the bank had mismanaged the reserves last year, Bruno said that in order to reduce the risk involved in foreign currency fluctuations and protect the purchasing power of the reserves from the macro-economic viewpoint, the bank maintained the reserves in accordance with its uses, namely the currency component of imports and redemption of foreign debts, rather than investing the reserves in one particular currency. Also, the bank was limited in its ability to speculate with the reserves because it was responsible for Israel's financial standing in the world, and the sharp drop in the reserves made it more difficult to borrow money as interest rates rose.

'Arafat Call for Meeting Termed 'Premature'

JN0203133589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed to me that the current priority is to reach an agreement by the UN Security Council permanent member states on a date and venue for an international peace conference. He recalled that coordination already exists between Jordan and Syria, Jordan and Egypt, and Jordan and the PLO, which leads to a concerted positive Arab position on calling an international conference.

Al-Qasim said that others should force Israel to accept an international conference, set a date and venue for such a conference, and issue invitations, especially to the PLO. After that, Al-Qasim explained, there must be a new phase of intensified coordination among the concerned Arab parties in a coordinated Arab effort. Al-Qasim considered as premature the ideas proposed by the PLO chief calling for a meeting among Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and representatives for the Palestinian state to prepare for an international conference. He called for avoiding ramifications that may interfere with the convocation of such a conference. Al-Qasim noted that the PLO prefers to attend an international conference through an independent delegation. He stressed Jordan's support for this idea.

On the proposal of Abu Iyad—Salah Khalaf—that a real peace must result from direct contacts, Al-Qasim said: Past experience has revealed that separate action by any individual or party does not lead to what we want. He explained that Jordan believes in the comprehensive nature of the desired Arab-Israeli solution. He indicated that a comprehensive peace requires the participation of all Arab parties directly involved in the conflict, including the PLO, which will represent the Palestinians in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations to be be held within an international peace conference.

Finally, Al-Qasim said the Arab-Israeli dispute arose from the Palestinian-Israeli dispute. He said the Arab countries became parties to the dispute as a result of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute.

Oil Discovery To Be Announced in 'Next Few Days'

JN0203175689 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 28 Feb 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Jordan will announce during a major national celebration within the next few days the discovery of oil in commercial quantities in the Al-Tarabil area on the border with Iraq. This was area has been disputed between the two countries since the early 1960's. Iraq recently relinquished the area to Jordan after demarcating the border between the two countries.

Informed Jordanian sources in Amman told AL-ITTIHAD that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will participate in these celebrations. Jordan will proclaim the day of Saddam's visit an official holiday on which all schools, universities, offices, institutions, and ministries will close to prepare a ceremonial reception for the Iraqi president.

AL-RA'Y on Shevardnadze PRAVDA Statement

JN0303092889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Mar 89 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Real Circumstances for a Settlement and Expediting the Convocation of an International Conference"]

[Text] In a statement published by PRAVDA yesterday, USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze affirmed that the right conditions exist for starting a settlement process in the Middle East. This view accords with that of most members of the international community and is seen behind the recent Soviet initiative, forwarded by Shevardnadze himself in Damascus, Amman, Cairo, Baghdad, and Tehran. Through this initiative he expressed Moscow's determination to play a positive role to achieve the desired settlement, along with all UN Security Council permanent members, within an international conference.

The existence of these conditions does not lessen the importance of expediting the international conference, but should serve as an incentive for expediting the peace process. Therefore, Washington would do well to reevaluate the situation in the region on this basis. Any delay in taking advantage of these conditions runs the risk of losing them, as their mere existence does guarantee their survival unless all parties take care of them and give them their due interest. In this regard, it can be concluded that there is no need for new initiatives in the region, because the agreed basis for a just and comprehensive settlement exists in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In addition, the Soviet interest in expediting the international conference should be viewed in the light of reducing international tension, something which this region needs. This interest should not be viewed as competition for a leading position in the peace process because the peace process does not need Soviet, U.S., or European leadership. It needs concerted efforts by all UN Security Council permanent member states and all parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute. This means that an international conference should lead the peace process, as it represents the international will and expresses the international community's responsibility to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Proper preparation for the conference does not necessarily mean its convocation should be further delayed. This preparation can take place within 9 months, as Shevardnadze proposed in an earlier statement. This period is sufficient, especially as all issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli dispute are very clear. In addition, the new U.S. Administration is familiar with these issues, as President Bush himself served as vice president for the past 8 years.

Therefore, it is strongly hoped that the right conditions for a settlement referred to by Shevardnadze will be utilized and that the United States will help achieve this end by adding its efforts to those of the UN Security Council permanent member states in order to move the peace process through a UN-sponsored international conference.

Columnist Questions U.S. Role in Middle East

JN0203101089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
2 Mar 89 p 18

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "Once Again, the Limited Role and the Other Unlimited One"]

[Text] Just as the Soviet role in the Middle East is unlimited—contrary to what the Israelis are deluding others into thinking and to what the Americans imagine—the belief that the U.S. role is unlimited is also a delusion and a fiction. According to normal political estimations of Washington's initiatives in the region, apart from Camp David, there has been no success—in fact, exactly the opposite. In Lebanon, Washington used its big Israeli stick to drive the Palestinians out of Beirut and push the Syrians to the Al-Biqa' valley. When it decided to impose a solution with its Marines and soldiers of NATO allies, it failed completely and ran away from Lebanon in a panic.

It is true that we, the Arabs, have failed to solve the Lebanese problem, but it is also certain that Washington was not able to impose its solution. Its role remained marginal and destructive, no more.

Also by political estimations, the Arabian Gulf states and Saudi Arabia discovered that when the war was at its peak and the Iranians were threatening navigation, the U.S. commitment to the protection of the region and the freedom of navigation, as announced by ex-President Jimmy Carter, was only a verbal commitment. U.S. naval clashes provoked by Iranian vessels did not change this fact. The evidence that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states did not take U.S. commitments seriously is that their arms deals, amounting to 60 billion [currency not specified], were mainly with Western Europe, not the United States.

Let us look at it from another viewpoint: The U.S. role in our region grows in response to military tension, whether it is the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Gulf war. This role grows through the eagerness to prolong and complicate the military tension and block any political solution. What role can Washington play in the Gulf after the cease-fire if its relations with Tehran remain broken off? Or with Iraq, with whom relations, although good, are plagued by doubt and suspicion?

What role is Washington currently playing in the Arab-Israeli conflict? Is it not marked by a total bias in favor of Israeli expansionism, a strategic alliance with Israel, and a policy of financial and military support for Israel to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories and impose its hegemony on all Arab countries?

Why then does President Bush think that the U.S. role in the region is unlimited while the Soviet role is strictly limited?

Fadlallah Calls for Release of Hostages

NC0303125589 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Beirut, March 3 (AFP)—A leading pro-Iranian Shi'ite Moslem cleric, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, called here Friday for the release of Western hostages in Lebanon.

"Although we understand the motives of the hostage-takers, we condemn this practice," Shaykh Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite group Hizballah, said in an address to weekly prayers.

"This problem must be resolved because it is inadmissible that people, especially if they are innocent, should be detained forever because of political complications," he said.

Many of the 14 foreigners missing in Lebanon are believed to be in the hands of pro-Iranian militants.

Al-Khatib Views Army Deployment Plans in South

NC0303080389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Excerpts] An important step, represented by the deployment of the Lebanese Army in the South, began at 0630 today.

Acting Army Commander Major General Sami al-Khatib issued the order of the day, outlining the task of the military force. In his order of the day, Maj Gen al-Khatib said:

O military men, you will move southward today, to the land of endurance and heroism, a land cherished by each one of us. You are leaving for the South today on the orders of our legitimate and constitutional government and in implementation of a pledge made by your command to your kinfolk in the South and to every citizen in Lebanon.

Your task is sacred, as is the land there. Your task is to support our military forces there and give momentum to their role in confronting the Israeli enemy, which persists in desecrating the land, destroying its wealth, and obstructing the wheel of life there. It is your job to consolidate legitimacy in an area which has long been waiting for you to play your role and where the elderly, women, and children have long yearned to see you stand with your brothers in the trench of the faithful national resistance against the occupation, enmity, and division. It is your job to safeguard the public utilities and legitimate institutions and help the official organs carry out their duties in the service of the citizens. It is your job to protect their rights and dignity.

O heroes, you are leaving for the South today, the land which honored the pledge and safeguarded the Lebanese people's right to live through the famous battles of steadfastness which have raged there over the past 25 years. You are leaving for the correct destination, the destination of right and jihad, for the sake of the freedom of a homeland, honor of a people, and heritage of a nation. [passage omitted]

Men, your departure for the South today to join your comrades there entails a historic responsibility in defense of the dignity of the people, honor of the army, nobility of the land, and greatness of the Arab nation. Be men and accept the responsibility with honor and dignity. Our kinfolk there need you, so that they may consolidate their presence and determination to stand fast. [passage omitted]

Soldiers, beware of slackness or negligence in performing your sacred mission. You will be confronting a vicious and experienced enemy which possesses force and capabilities. This enemy has managed to lure some of your brothers and make them subservient through the implementation of its schemes and covetous designs. This enemy violates international laws and flouts all resolutions adopted by the United Nations and its various bodies. You must defend your weapons and land to carry out the national will for liberation. You must fortify yourselves with your profound faith in your right to live in a free, independent, and sovereign homeland. [passage omitted]

Soldiers, you will not be alone in this mission. All of Lebanon and all of the Army will support you. Fraternal Syria, from its great pan-Arab militant position, will side with you and will back up your struggle for the liberation of the land and the restoration of the usurped Arab right. You will also find there groups of UN forces selected from various friendly countries to help us implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the total, unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli enemy from Lebanon to the international borders. You must coordinate your efforts with the UN forces and respect their being away from their homes. We must show gratitude and appreciation to them so that they may continue their mission to implement the aforementioned resolution with all confidence and assurance. [passage omitted]

'Final Touches' Made to Plans

NC0303082189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The 123d battalion of the 12th Brigade has completed preparations to deploy in the Al-Zahrani area this morning. The battalion commanders met at the Muhammad Zughayib barracks in Sidon yesterday to put the final touches on the deployment plans. The battalion will proceed toward its operational destination between 0600 and 0630 today.

Army sources in the South have stated that this step aims to reunify the army brigades' battalions and companies in Beirut, Al-Shuf, Al-Biqa', and the North. It also aims to raise the level of their readiness to confront the Israeli enemy troaops in combat, check any possible attack on the South, and implement all orders to protect the southern borders and implement UN Resolution 425.

The Army sources said that the battalion's task has officially been defined as confrontation with Israel. The first stage of deployment will take place along two lines, starting from Al-Zahrani. One will go toward Tyre and the other toward Al-Nabatiyah. Other steps will follow, leading to deployment further South, immediately upon the arrival of reinforcements from companies and battalions of the various army brigades, including a tank company from the 6th Brigade.

An Amal Movement source has drawn attention to the movement's stand, which strongly supports the state's legitimate institutions and the return of these institutions to the South. The source also pointed to the Amal Movement's stand on UN Resolution 425. He affirmed that the movement supports every positive step which will speed up the implementation of this resolution. The source urged the UN Security Council to implement this resolution by force.

Army Units Complete Deployment

NC0303100789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, units from the Army's 12th and 6th Brigades have completed deployment in the areas of Al-Zahrani, Maghdushah, Sarba, Al-Ghaziyah, and Qanarit. The Army units are equipped with T-54 tanks. According to AFP, the Army force is made up of 400 soldiers.

The deployment process coincided with reconnaissance flights by Israeli warplanes over Sidon and the Palestinian camps, which drew antiaircraft fire. At 1120, Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut.

Hizballah Radio Assails U.S. Support for Israel

NC0303104589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Unattributed political commentary entitled: "It Is America"]

[Text] Lebanon is always the place in which and on which political and military experiments are performed and tactics are tried out. It is from and through Lebanon that the direction in which the needle of the area's political compass is pointing can be determined. This observation is prompted by the raids carried out by Israeli warplanes on some Lebanese villages, which killed scores of persons. Most of these were innocent children whose only crime was to be present in their schools at a time when the Zionist command wished to commit an act of aggression against military positions held by Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP. The purpose of this aggression was to retaliate for a fedayeen operation launched by the DFLP on the Lebanese-Palestinian borders.

We are not trying here to analyze the motives of the Israeli attack, because Israel does not need any justifications when it wishes to launch barbaric assaults. Israel is not the subject of this commentary. The subject is the United States of America, which does not hesitate to defend and protect the Zionist entity, whenever this usurping entity unmasks its ugly face and commits a new crime against the Lebanese and Palestinian people. It is as if these people are destined to receive blows from the Zionists without there being any person, organization, or state that is capable of putting an end to these foolish acts, not because other parties are unaware of what is being done to Lebanon but because there is a diligent, indefatigable protector who never tires of defending the violations of the state of Zion. Very simply, this protector is America.

When Israel commits acts of aggression and attacks schools, hospitals, and peaceful areas in Lebanon, these acts are regarded by the peacelovers in America as acts of self-defense by the Zionists. When the resistance fights back against Zionist expansion or even tries to stage an operation to liberate the land and end the oppression of the poor people, this is regarded by human rights advocates, again in America, as unparalleled terrorism. Israel's security is the object and the goal. The life of the Zionist is blessed in America. Thousands of poor people are murdered or made homeless, and houses and buildings are destroyed. This is what is required and sought in America.

The security arrangements which America is calling for in South Lebanon, which will allow Israel to carry out continuous operations of annihilation against the Muslims and prevent the firing of a single bullet at the enemy, even if he advances, kills, and terrorizes—these arrangements are the canopy under which the Zionist warplanes take off to destroy houses, harm the bodies of children and teachers in schools, and carry out operations to eliminate hospitals and the patients, disabled persons, doctors, and nurses in them. Again, this is what is required in America.

The security arrangements for which America is now calling constitute contempt for the blood of our people and our slaughtered heroes. This is the peak of insolence. It is also a reconfirmation by the United States of its aggressiveness and arrogance. America, which is defending the usurped right of renegade Salman Rushdie, speaks another language in Lebanon, based on usurping the will and freedom of an entire nation. This is the very essence of international criminality and terrorism which, again, comes from America. At all events, the basis on which we must build our policy and ideas is that everything comes from America. What they want us to swallow is poison. We must give them this poison to drink at every opportunity and on all levels. This is the least we can offer America.

DFLP Claims Israeli Officer Killed in Battle

NC0203183389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] According to reports from the South, tension continues in the occupied border strip in the aftermath of the operation which a DFLP group carried out against an Israeli position. The DFLP issued a statement tonight saying that the Israeli enemy has admitted that Captain (Evie), commander of the paratroop battalion which participated in the battle, was killed and that others were wounded. The statement says that four DFLP fighters were killed in the battle.

Israel Requests Expansion of Security Zone

NC0303064689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] On the eve of the departure to the south of an 800-man force from the forces under the command of Brigadier General Sami al-Khatib and only hours after four members of the DFLP were killed in a clash with an Israeli patrol, General Yosi Peled, commander of Israel's northern area, spoke of the possibility of expanding the security zone in South Lebanon. He said that he received a request from the villages of Mimis, Kufayr Al-Zayt 'Ayn 'Ata, Al-Khalwah, and (Tanta) to include these villages in the security zone. He said that he will discuss this matter and respond to it very soon.

However, AFP cited political and administrative officials in these villages as having denied that such a request has been made. They said that Peled's statement proves that Israel intends to expand the security zone.

This Israeli stand comes at a time when a military force from the 6th and 12th brigades, which are under the command of Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib, is to move to the South to deploy there at 0800 today. In preparation for this deployment, the 23d battalion was assembled in Al-Rumaylah and the 98th battalion in Muhammad Zughayb barracks in Sidon.

In the first phase, the deployment will take place in the coastal area extending from Al-Zahrani to Tyre and from Tyre in the direction of the Army's two positions in Kawkaba and Arzun in Al-Nabatiyah area. At a later stage, the deployment could expand in the direction of Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli Military Movements Reported in South

NC0303071589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Movements of armored Israeli forces were reported along the Al-Khiyam-Marj 'Uyun-Al-Dardarah axis near Al-Hasbani river north of metulla yesterday afternoon. Security sources in Hasbayya have reported that the Israeli forces brought a heavy 155-mm artillery battery into Lebanese territory in the past few hours and stationed the guns between Al-Mari and Al-Majidiyah.

Israeli Planes Fly Over Sidon, Palestinian Camps

NC0303082389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the Palestinian camps at 0930 today. The planes drew antiaircraft fire.

Protests of Israeli Attacks Submitted to UN

NC0303075889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Lebanon yesterday submitted a strongly worded complaint to the UN Secretariat protesting recent Israeli attacks against western Al-Shahhar and Al-Shuwayfat [in the mountain area]. The Foreign Ministry received a cable from Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent delegte to the United Nations, yesterday, saying that he had met with Assistant UN Secretary General Jean-Claude Aime—Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar being absent—and conveyed to him Lebanon's srong protest of Israel's aggressions against western Al-Shahhar and Al-Shuwayfat and asked that the UN Secretariat denounce these aggressions.

Khaddam Receives International Socialists

JN0303070289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] At 1830 yesterday, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a Socialist International delegation led by (Hans Jurgen Wischnewski). Talks during the meeting centered on the situation in the region and current international issues.

Al-Shar' Meets Delegation

JN0203143489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received a Socialist International delegation this morning led by (Hans Jurgen Wischnewski), head of the group's Middle East committee. Present at the meeting were Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and the chiefs of the Western Europe, Arab Homeland, and Palestine Departments at the Foreign Ministry.

Discussions focused on the Arab-Israeli dispute and the swing to aggression and extremism in Israel and its open defiance of the international community's will and efforts to promote a just, comprehensive peace in the region. Both sides agreed on the need for a UN-sponsored international Mideast peace conference to work out a just, comprehensive peace settlement based on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the recognition of Palestinian national rights, including self-determination and independent nationhood. The Socialist International team expressed their understanding of Syria's position and its key role in the region.

'Criticism' of Israel Noted

JN0203175989 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expressed appreciation for the Europeans' positive stance on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the convocation of an international conference. He also expressed appreciation for the European criticism of Israel's policy. During a meeting with the Socialist International delegation led by (Hans Jurgen Wischnewski), head of the group's Middle East committee, Al-Shar' called for translating this criticism into concrete measures against Israel. He said that concessions offered recently to Israel have hardened its intransigence and inflexibility to such an extent that the achievement of peace in the region has been pushed back farther than ever. [passage omitted]

PDRY Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Al-Shar'

JN2802171289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Feb 899

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], here this afternoon. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, Syrian assistant foreign minister; Mustafa 'Umran, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Muhammad 'Abduh Shatfah, the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the talks centered on relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them in every area. They also discussed current Arab affairs. Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali and his delegation arrived in Damascus from Amman today. He was received at the Syrian-Jordanian border by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the assistant protocol chief at the Foreign Ministry.

Ends Visit, Departs 28 Feb

JN2802194289 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and his delegation left Damascus this evening. He was seen off at Damascus Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry, the director of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

People's Council Speaker, Officials Elected

JN0103141289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The People's Council met under Council Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah this morning. This session was devoted to electing the Council bureau members, consisting of the Council speaker, the deputy Council speaker, the Council secretaries, and controllers in accordance with Council by-laws that dictate that the Council bureau elections be held annually through secret balloting.

As a result of the balloting, 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah won the Council speakership for a second term. Qaddurah delivered a speech in which he voiced the hope that he will continue, in cooperation with the Council bureau and the Council members, to perform the mission assigned to him. He added: We hope that we will continue to enjoy the trust of the Ba'th Party, its leader, the National Progressive Front, and the people; and that our efforts will vindicate this valued trust.

Later, the Council members elected the remaining bureau members. They elected Dr 'Ali Rida as deputy speaker; Muhammad Sa'd and Majid 'Izzu al-Ruhaybani as Council secretaries; and Ghassan Rajab and Muhammad Khayr al-Halabi as Council controllers. After the Council's bureau elections, the session was adjourned until 1100 tomorrow.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Siege Gereshk; 50 Kabul Troops Killed

BK0303112589 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin have besieged Gereshk, located on the Herat-Qandahar road, where clashes have been continuing since the 22d of last month. Reports say 50 Kabul troops were either killed or injured. Two tanks were hit and nine vehicles destroyed as a result of last week's fighting.

Mujahidin Commanders Support Interim Government

BK0303033489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Ten senior commanders of various mujahidin groups have announced their allegiance to the new interim government in Afghanistan set up under the leadership of Professor Sibghatullah Mojaddedi.

Addressing a joint news conference in Peshawar yesterday, the general commander of the Afghan Islamic Alliance, Mawlawi Aslam Rahmani, said the interim government has the support of all those commanders who are fighting in various battle fronts inside Afghanistan. He expressed the hope that they will soon liberate Afghanistan from the domination of the puppet regime set up with Soviet assistance.

Meanwhile, in Afghanistan, the mujahidin carried out operations against Kabul administration forces in Oruzgan yesterday and liberated the whole area from Kabul forces. The Afghan news agency also reported that Afghan mujahidin have attained further successes against Kabul forces guarding Qandahar city.

Wakil Leaves on 'Working Visit' to India

LD0203170489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil left Kabul this morning for New Delhi on a friendly working visit.

At Kabul airport he was seen off by Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of internal affairs; Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister; and (?Matuq), charge d'affaires at the Indian Embassy in Kabul.

When asked during an interview with domestic and foreign journalists about the objective of his visit the foreign minister said the following:

I am carrying a message from esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Exellency R. Gandhi.

India, as a large country on the Asian Continent, a worthy member of the Nonaligned Movement, and a neighbor and friend of the Afghan people, has always supported the peaceful policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and denounced interference in the internal affairs of our country. Therefore, India must be informed of new developments and situations which confront the future of our country following the withdrawal of the limited Soviet troop contingents, which came about as a result of various countries' positions.

I will also hold talks with our Indian friends about Pakistan's continued violations of the Geneva accords. The Republic of India, through its influence and political standing in the region, can assist in finding a rapid political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan.

During this visit I will meet and hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Gandhi and External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao.

According to another report, 'Abdul Wakil and his accompanying delegation arrived in New Delhi this afternoon.

At Gandhi Airport they were welcomed by His Excellency Narasimha Rao, a number of officials from the External Affairs Ministry, and 'Abdul Samad Azhar, ambassador and extraordinary representative of the Republic of Afghanistan to India.

UN Notified of Pakistani 'Violations' of Accords

Notes 254-257 Submitted

LD0103142889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 28, BAKHTAR—The 254th to 257th notices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on Pakistan's violaton of the Geneva accords were submitted to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] Headquarters in Kabul.

The notices point out that the concentration of Pakistani soldiers in the border region nearing Nangarhar Province and the direct involvement of Pakistani militias alongside the extremists groups in subversive activities have been intensified, which runs counter to the provisions of Geneva agreements.

The notices also give precise information about the dispatch of assorted weapons by Pakistan into the territory of Afghanistan causing huge human and financial losses. The notices also pointed out that the Pakistan authorities were helping foreign military advisers to infiltrate into Afghanistan. There has also been information that Pakistan's tribal militias took direct part in hostilities on the side of Afghan extremists.

The notices ask the UNGOMAP office to investigate into the violations and to inform the sides concerned of the findings.

Protests 258-262 Submitted

LD0103173389 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Liaison Office has submitted protest notes Nos 258, 259, 260, 261, and 262 to UNGOMAP in Kabul.

UNGOMAP's attention has been drawn to the shipment of fatal weapons from the territory of Pakistan to the Republic of Afghanistan in Note 258. Pakistan's delivery of these fatal weapons has enabled the extremist groups to disrupt the calm life of our people and inflict numerous casualties on our innocent compatriots.

In Note 259, comprehensive information has been furnished about the military bases of Karimpur and (Dadshahpur), the former located in the area of Karimpur [Pakistan] and the latter in Kyber Agency. It is noted that Afghan extremists, after receiving training in these bases which operate alongside hundreds of other training camps for extremists, are sent to Afghanistan for subversive activities.

In Foreign Ministry Note 260 there is information about 15 incidents of heavy weapons fire on the residential areas of the capital and provinces of the country. This has caused enormous material and human losses. It added that extremist groups are intensifying war and fratricide with these arms sent from Pakistan.

Foreign Ministry Note 261 brings to UNGOMAP's attention a series of Pakistani activities in the form of support for and persuasion of the shura and the so-called government of the extremist opposition.

Foreign Ministry Note 262 provides information to UNGOMAP on the concentration of Pakistani militia in the border area of Chaman and it added that the Pakistani authorities are trying to prevent the return of refugees who want to come to Afghanistan.

It is noted in the Foreign Ministry memorandum that the Pakistani authorities have recently intensified their violation of the Geneva agreements, particularly since the Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan. UNGOMAP has been requested to investigate the violations in line with Paragraph 7, Article 5 of the Geneva accords and inform the Republic of Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general on its findings.

Protests 263-265 Delivered

LD0203165789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry Liaison Office delivered notes Nos 263, 264 and 265 on Pakistan's clear and blatant violations of the Geneva accords to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

In Note 263, detailed information is furnished on the continuation of military training for the extremists in two training centers on Pakistani soil. It asserts that extremists are sent to Afghanistan for subversive activities after being trained at these centers.

In Note 264, information is furnished to UNGOMAP on 12 explosions which have killed 12 of our compatriots and injured 33 others. The explosions were carried out by the extremists under the direct command and control of the Pakistani military.

Comprehensive information has been furnished to UNGOMAP in Note 265 on the activities of the Pakistani authorities, who are training, arming, and dispatching destructive extremists, and shipping in lethal weapons from Pakistan. The involvement of that country's soldiers and paramilitary forces in intensifying terrorist operations in the Republic of Afghanistan endangers peace and security in our country. UNGOMAP is requested to investigate Pakistan's clear and hostile violations.

The note remarks that with the completion of the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan both countries have carried out their obligations and undertakings. We hope the violations under Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva agreements will be investigated at the bilateral meeting—which has not yet been arranged despite the persistent suggestions of Afghanistan—to assess Pakistan's clear violations and irresponsible behavior. We hope the investigation's results will be reported to Afghanistan and the representative of the UN secretary general.

Najibullah Chairs Supreme Council Session

LD0203175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Supreme Council of the Defense of the Homeland met under the chairmanship of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, at Delkosha Palace. The following attended: members of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland, leaders of the Armed Forces and ministries, commanders of the main units and companies of centers and provinces, leaders of Kabul city party committee, and leaders of the 11 party wards.

The BIA military section reports that the session was opened with a short speech by Major General 'Abdul Haq 'Ulumi, secretary of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland. Then, Major General Muhammad Afzal Lodin, first deputy defense minister and commander of Kabul garrison, presented a report on the activities of the Kabul Garrison Command.

At the end of the session esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and chairman of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland, assessed their work. He praised the work and activities of the commanders, and drew their attention to their tasks in protecting and defending the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Islamic country of Afghanistan. The president of Afghanistan added that the defense of the Islamic country of Afghanistan acquires special importance now when some circles in the West are impudently producing publications and movies against the sacred religion of Islam. Esteemed Najibullah added that the Republic of Afghanistan, while condemning efforts and provocation by anti-Islam circles in the West, considers it the duty of all commanders and personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan to defend the Islamic country of Afghanistan along with protecting and safeguarding the Islamic beliefs of the people.

Esteemed Najibullah said that we have every reason to count on the future victory of Afghanistan's people. With every passing day the enemy's calculations on the lack of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan's ability become more muddled. The brave personnel of the country's Armed Forces heroically defend key and strategic positions. The people's trust and confidence in the opposition is decreasing. The self-sacrificing personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan display their high expertise, combat readiness, and firm morale, united and cohesive in the trenches of their self-sacrificing defense of the gains of the national reconciliation policy and in the interests of our Islamic country.

Council of Ministers Restricts Fuel Supplies

LD0203213589 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

["Text" of Council of Ministers' Executive Committee resolution on the consumption of petroleum products in Afghanistan, issued on 28 February—read by announcer]

[Text] In consideration of the present difficult situation and to economize on the consumption of petroleum products, prevent hoarding and abuse, and bring the necessary order in distributing petroleum products, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan approves the following:

1. The following reduction should become effective in the use of cars in ministries, departments and government enterprises and institutions:

With the exception of officials in Grade A, officials above the top rank, officials above the first rank and equivalent to this rank, major general grade, and grades lower than this, presidents of departments or institutions, and those officers commanding noncombat independent units, cars must not be moved from the yards of the respective government organs. Service buses and minibuses of these departments should be used. A maximum of four service cars should be allocated for daily use in every ministry, department, or major institution in proportion to the type of activity and number of personnel. These motor vehicles must be used only in essential and urgent cases. The cars and [words indistinct] transporting vehicles which do not carry out important services for ministries, departments, and institutions should be handed over to the respective storekeepers together with a detailed list under the supervision of a technical commission appointed by top officials, in consideration of technical norms in nondangerous regions. Their (?report) should be submitted within a week to the Council of Ministers. The drivers of these vehicles should be directed to the Ministry of Transport and enterprises of the Ministry of Commerce for temporary employment where they will benefit from drivers' salaries and privileges.

2. The following consumption norm should be determined for government cars: 200 liters of gasoline per month for cars of the officials at a level above the top rank and officials equivalent to this rank; 150 liters of gasoline per month for cars of officials at the level above the first rank; of major general and above this rank; the official cars of presidents of departments and institutions; and those officers who head independent noncombat units; 120 liters of gasoline per month for service cars.

3. The norm of consumption for other vehicles should be determined in the following manner in view of the license and other relevant documents.

One hundred liters per month for private vehicles; 700 liters for city and provincial taxicabs: 100 liters per month per cylinder for Milli [National] buses and for privately owned hauling vehicles; 50 liters per month for rickshaws [as heard] and for vehicles with less than four cylinders.

4. Fuel for vehicles and equipment in industrial, economic, mine, construction, agriculture, and irrigation establishments, and for equipment for energy, power production, and central heating, state establishments, state transport, ambulances, street cleaning vehicles, funeral vehicles, and other similar vehicles will be provided in the usual way.

5. Fuel for radio-television vehicles and for other specialized vehicles will be provided in the usual way.

6. Fuel for Armed Forces' vehicles and equipment will be provided according to their needs.

7. Those ministries, departments, and establishments who, due to their specialized tasks, need large quantities of fuel and who have not been mentioned in this resolution, should submit their proposals independently to the Council of Ministers for approval.

8. Fuel for high tonnage load-carrying vehicles and for passenger buses to the provinces will be provided in view of their travel tariff and fixed norms.

9. Fuel for high tonnage load-carrying vehicles included in the country transport plan on the Kabul-Hayratan highway, load-carrying vehicles of the Armed Forces,

and passenger buses to the northern provinces should be provided from Pol-e Khomri and Hayratan pumping stations for the return journey.

10. The distribution of fuel should be carried out according to the fixed amounts for vehicles and equipments by Kabul municipality and the Ministry of Power and Water.

11. Fuel consumption for families in Kabul city is to be provided in consideration of relevant documents, on the basis of coupons which are being distributed by commissions in Kabul city and regions, per family at the rate of: 15 liters of diesel per month, and 7 liters of kerosene per month for the first 7 months of the year; and 40 liters of diesel per month and 20 liters of kerosene per month for the last 5 months of the year.

12. The distribution of petroleum products is resolutely forbidden except in consideration of the noted cases. Violaters will be dealt with according to the law.

13. The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of State Security, with the participation of the ministries of commerce and planning, are dutybound to identify the relevant vehicles and the consumption of fuel and other substances—taking into account the instructions of this resolution—to present their report to the Ministry of Planning by 10 March. This will be included in the plan for the distribution of fuel. They should take measures in accordance with the approved plan to transport fuel from Hayratan port to the relevant storage areas. As much fuel as possible should be conserved.

14. The Ministry of Planning, taking into account the instructions included in this resolution, should consider rationing fuel for ministries, establishments, firms, and private sectors and should try to reduce consumption.

15. The Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Light Industry and Foodstuffs, the Central Council of the Union of Tradesmen, the Central Department for Private Investment Incentives and Development, the Central Council of Trade Unions and Kabul municipality are responsible for determining fuel rations for bakers, confectioners, and pastry and sweets-manufacturing firms in accordance with the volume of production, and present their report to the Council of Ministers for approval in 2 weeks time.

16. The Ministry of Commerce is dutybound to distribute fuel for state vehicles and equipment for credit and for private vehicles and equipment for cash. A fixed plan for fully implementing the instructions included in this resolution should be drawn up and carried out. Mobile and immobile pumping stations should be specified for various types of vehicles and [word indistinct]. Fuel commission agents should be aware of their duties. Legal action should be taken against them if they sell fuel by means other than cash and ration coupons and they should also be fined 10 times the original price. Also, those who use more than their ration should be fined 10 times.

17. Ministries, establishments, and firms are responsible for taking the necessary and effective measures to implement the instructions included in this resolution and enforce them. They should seriously avoid unnecessary fuel consumption.

18. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of State Security, by cooperating with the Supreme Court and social organizations, should take measures to prevent the unlawful sale, purchase, and hoarding of fuel.

19. The Ministry of Commerce is entrusted with the control and implementation of this resolution. It should present a report on how the work is proceeding to the Council of Ministers by 21 March 1989.

Bangladesh

Police, Army To Join Namibia Peacekeeping Group

BK0203130989 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Bangladesh is to send one battalion of officers and troops to Namibia to work under the UN Transition Assistance Group. They will work with the forces of other countries to supervise the transition of Namibian independence as per the Security Council Resolution of 1978. This will be Bangladesh's second such involvement in the international peacekeeping endeavor after it sent Army officers to the Gulf to monitor the UN-mediated cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

Bangladesh is also sending 41 police personnel to Namibia to monitor the law and order situation there. They are expected to leave for Namibia this month.

India

Gandhi Announces Punjab Peace Plan 3 Mar

BK0303085489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The prime minister today announced a package of measures to restore the political process in Punjab. All Jodhpur detenus [detainees] will be released. However, detenus against whom there are specific charges will be prosecuted under the law by the Punjab government. Restrictions under the Foreigners Act on movement in the state are being removed. The amendment to the National Security Act relating to special powers is being withdrawn.

The prime minister's announcement, made in the Lok Sabha today, was received with thumping of desks by members belonging to both sides. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the discussion on the motion of thanks on the president's address. He informed the house that the Disturbed Areas Act will be limited only to severely disturbed areas in the state. The Punjab government would also start withdrawing cases against those charged with making objectionable speeches and writings. Village defense organizations will be set up in the state. They will consist of retired uniformed personnel.

The prime minister also announced that the panchayat [village council] elections, which could not be held in the state in September last due to floods, will now start from May this year. The process will be completed by the middle of the year.

Referring to the trial of the Delhi riot cases, he assured the house that there will be no soft-pedaling on this. Two hundred and twenty-five cases have been registered and some of the guilty have already been punished. Mr Gandhi made it clear that while the government wishes to see the political process restored in Punjab, it will not be relenting in its fight against terrorism.

The prime minister asserted that the government has been able to break the back of the terrorists in Punjab, and barring one or two groups they have ceased to be a political force. He said the terrorists are only a criminal force in Punjab now. The nexus between the terrorists and secessionists as well as terrorists and religious fundamentalists has been broken. Full maryada [dignity] and sanctity of the Golden Temple has been restored. Over 20,000 people visited the Golden Temple on the Makar Sankranti [Hindu festival] day. He said gurdwaras [Sikh temples] in the state are no longer sanctuaries for the terrorists. Mr Gandhi pointed out that schools and colleges in the state are functioning almost normally. The state's economy is strong and robust despite floods. The people have started attending public meetings.

He said the people of Punjab want peace and development and are convinced that terrorism must end. The prime minister said that while the government stood firm against the terrorists in Punjab, it did not receive support from some sections of certain political parties. Among the parties which stood by the government in this difficult task were the two communist parties. He regretted that one member of the opposition gave his support to the idea of a separate Sikh state, which is unfortunate. He wanted to know what action the opposition has taken against this member.

The house later adopted the motion of thanks to the president for his address.

Afghan Foreign Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

BK0303032089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The Afghan foreign minister, Mr 'Abdul Wakil, arrived in New Delhi last evening to brief Indian leaders about the latest situation in his country. He is carrying a message from the Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, for the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. Mr Wakil was received at the airport by the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao. During his 5-day stay in the capital, the Afghan foreign minister will hold talks with Mr Gandhi and the external affairs ministers, Mr Narasimha Rao and Mr Natwar Singh.

Meanwhile, India has categorically refuted the reports in a section of the press that Indian pilots and technical experts are operating planes in Afghanistan. In New Delhi yesterday, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman dismissed the reports as baseless, mischievous, and part of a disinformation excercise. The spokesman also asserted that India has not been providing any military assistance to the Afghan Government. He, however, said that in keeping with the age-old links between the peoples of the two countries India has been participating in the economic program of Afghanistan, dedicated to the welfare of the common man.

Reports of Pilots Assisting Afghans Denied

BK0203124589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] India has categorically refuted the reports in a section of the press that Indian pilots and technical experts are operating planes in Afghanistan. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi today dismissed the reports as baseless, mischievous, and part of a disinformation exercise. The reports had suggested that Indian Air Force pilots and technical experts have also taken part in bombing of certain mujahidin positions in Khowst area.

The spokesman pointed out that only 2 days ago the Indian embassies in Islamabad and Beijing had issue denials of similar reports insinuating that Indian experts in the field of air activities were helping Afghanistan following the Soviet troops withdrawal. He said India has categorically denied all such false and unfounded allegations several times during the last 2 years.

UN Head Urges Broad-Based Afghan Government

BK0203160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The UN secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, has stressed the need to form a broad-based government in Afghanistan to ease the situation there. He said such a government should have representatives from all the groups. In an interview to All India Radio, Mr Perez de Cuellar, said he is in constant touch with Kabul, Islamabad, Washington, and Moscow for setting up a representative government. Replying to a question, he said there is no possibility of enlarging the UN peace-keeping action in Afghanistan at this stage.

During his meeting with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, Mr Perez de Cuellar, appreciated India's significant contribution to UN peacekeeping efforts worldwide. He also thanked India for supplying personnel to the UN Transitional Assistance Group for Namibia.

PRC Agriculture Minister Arrives for Talks

BK0203161689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The Chinese agriculture minister, Mr He Kang, has arrived in New Delhi to explore possible areas of cooperation between the two countries. The visit is a follow up of the understanding reached during the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's, visit to China, last December.

'Little Response' To Strike Against Rushdie Book

BK0203160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In West Bengal, the call for a 24-hour bundh [strike] given by some Muslim organizations in protest against Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" evoked little response today. Life all over the state was normal. In Calcutta, 20 people were arrested when they tried to close shops forcibly.

3 Tribal 'Extremists' Killed by Assam Police

BK0203160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In Assam, three Bodo [tribal] extremists were killed in police firing in Darrang District on the 1st day today of the 175-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the All Bodo Students Union. UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, quoting official reports from Guwahati, said that the extremists armed with guns, bows, and arrows attacked a police party at Bamora near (Khaipavbari) police station. The police returned the fire in which three extremists were killed.

Security 'Tightened'

BK0303042589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] In Assam, security measures have been tightened all over the state in view of the 10-hour Assam bundh [strike] called by the All Assam Students Union [AASU] from 0600 this morning. The AASU has given the bundh call in support of their demand to revise the electoral rolls as per the Assam accord and to protest against the center's decision to set up the central university at Borghat Valley.

In view of the bundh, the Indian Airlines have regulated some of its flights for the day. The railway authorities have also either regulated or canceled some of its train services for today.

Meanwhile, the second phase of 199-hour bundh by the All Bodo [tribal] Students' Union continues to disrupt normal life in some tribal-dominated areas.

Strike Affects 'Normal Life'

BK0303085589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] In Assam, arson and violence have been reported mainly from the tribal-dominated areas, as the state faces two different bundh [strike] calls given by the All Bodo Students Union and the All Assam Students Union [AASU]. The 10-hour bundh called by the AASU today in support of their demand for revision of electoral rolls as per the Assam accord and to protest against the Center's decision to set up the central university in Barak valley paralyzed life in the entire Brahmaputra valley.

Elsewhere, the second phase of the 199-hour bundh sponsored by the Bodo Students Union has brought life to a standstill in the tribal-dominated areas of the state. Reports reaching Guwahati say miscreants set a number of government buildings and trucks to fire in Kokrajhar, Udalgiri, and Dhubri. Police patrol parties were ambushed at several places, resulting in injuries to five policemen. Three miscreants were also killed in Udalgiri yesterday when police intervened to stop a violent mob from setting fire to a passenger bus.

27 Killed in Jamshedpur Factory Fire 3 Mar

BK0303075289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Reports say at least 27 people were killed in a fire in the TISCO [Tata Iron and Steel Company] factory in Jamshedpur this morning. Several others were injured in the fire, which engulfed a pandal [large pavilion] erected in connection with the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Jamshadji Tata [famous industrialist]. The flame was first noticed by newsmen as about 30,000 spectators were watching a march past. Fueled by gusty winds, the fired engulfed the entire pandal within minutes resulting in stampede. The cause of the fire is still not known, but suspect it to be a case of short circuit. Relief and rescue operations are on in full swing.

BJP Leader Criticizes Cuts in Defense Budget

BK0203162089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, has said that the cut in the defense sector in the union budget should have been made after working out an understanding with Pakistan. The time is not ripe for this cut because Pakistan is acquiring more and more arms. Addressing a party rally, Mr Vajpayee termed the union budget as directionless and criticized it for not having enough provision for farmers. He said his party will maintain its separate identity while working out electoral understandings with other parties.

Foodgrain Production To Total 170 Million Tons

BK0203161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] The agriculture minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed the hope that foodgrain production this year will exceed 170 million tons, 4 million more than the target. Intervening in the resumed discussion on the motion of thanks to the president's address in the Rajya Sabha today, he said the import bill of oil seeds will also be less by about 500 crore rupees. There will be no need to import cotton and sugar because of surplus production.

Mr Bhajal Lal regretted that in spite of such achievements in agriculture and other fields, the opposition continues to complain of lack of progress and display a negative attitude. He also referred to one of the opposition leaders who had himself admitted that there was no interference from the prime minister with the working of the ministry he then headed, but he is now talking in a different tone and making allegations of corruption. Mr Bhajan Lal also referred to various other issues and sought everybody's cooperation in fighting terrorism.

Iran

Khamene'i Attacks London, Paris, Bonn Governments

LD0303102889 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text], Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Whether Britain revised its stand in the crisis with Iran regarding "The Satanic Verses" by next week's deadline or not, it will eventually have to back down under pressure, President 'Ali Khamene'i said.

He also bitterly attacked London, Paris and Bonn governments and stressed that the Islamic Republic would not tolerate attacks on its sacred beliefs to meet technological and financial needs from the West.

"The world is [a] big place. There is plenty of room for cooperation" with other states, Khamene'i said.

On the Majlis ultimatum that Britain should change by March 7 its "unprincipled stand" in the row over Salman Rushdie's book, he said: "Whether Britain apologizes or not, there is no doubt that it will be forced to apologize and retreat in the face of the great Islamic nation."

In his sermon at Friday mass prayer, the president singled out Britain, France and West Germany in a stinging attack on their condemnation of Iran for its attack on "freedom of expression" in the West by calling for the death of British author Salman Rusdhie.

He said their open confrontation with Iran in defence of the book was an "ignorant and rash" move which proved that the issues was not over a cultural principle but a political consipiracy to discredit Islam.

Iran may need Western help in post-war reconstruction, but not at the price of losing its dignity.

"I say this as the definite view of ourselves and the people of Iran," Khamene'i stressed in his sermon to tens of thousands of worshippers at Tehran University.

"Western policy makers and European governments whould not think that because we are in the reconstruction era and that we may need something they have, our nation is ready to give up its sacred beliefs. Never."

The Islamic Republic would remain firm on the issue and would "cut off any hand trying to harm its principles."

There were many countries who were eager to help Iran's economy because of its wealth. But even if no one extended a hand, Iranians would rebuild their country themselves. "World rulers should not think for a moment that this nation would give in to humiliation."

Iranian Foreign Ministry sources said Thursday Britain's offer to hold a meeting to resolve the crisis had been rejected.

President Khamene'i praised the imam's order to execute the Indian-born author because it would discourage others from insulting Islam. "From now on anyone who wants to write these things, or to make a film out of it will wait for death threats from Muslims who have accepted the imam's fatwah and want to carry it out."

Banning "The Satanic Verses" alone would not be effective as it would increase demand and have no impact on the author who was seeeking to become more famous, he said.

The Swedish Academy of Letters, guardian of the Nobel literature prize, has refused to condemn Iran by name because of calls for Rushdie's death.

After its longest meeting in 20 years in Stockholm Thursday, it suggested that its views on the issue may have undesired political implications but it nevertheless disassociated itself "from any attempt to strangle the free word."

Khamene'i ridiculed leaders of the West for insisting that they were defending the sacred right of freedom of every man to express his views as a fundamental principle of human rights.

Where were the British, West German, and French Governments and their allies who withdrew their ambassadors from Tehran when 5,000 people were gassed to death in Halabjah by Iraq last year? Why are they silent against daily Israeli crimes against defenceless Palestinians? Why do they refuse to impose economic sanctions on racist South Africa?

"The right to free expression is an excuse to deceive people... you are liars and hypocrites... how shamless and impudent you are," the president lashed out.

When nearly 300 people died in the American downing of an Iran Air passenger plane over the Persian Gulf last July, Britain formally defended the U.S. action. "This Mrs Thatcher said 'Yes, America had the right to do this'... what kind of humanity is this? What sort of support is this for human rights? You deceitful, evil liars."

The president also called on Third World nations, namely India, not to forget "British crimes", and stand by insulted Muslims instead of backing the West in the affair.

In contrast to the wide support for Rushdie by writers in the West, "The Satanic Verses' has led to demonstrations in many parts of the world by inflamed Muslims, at least 20 of whom have died and dozens injured in protests in Kashmir, other parts of India, and Pakistan.

The book has been officially banned in Iran, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, South Africa, Brunei, Kenya, Bangladesh and Malaysia.

UK's Howe Indicates Wish To Continue Relations

LD0203224889 Tehran IRNA in English 2237 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Britain's Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe has admitted that Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses" is offensive to Muslims, and has expressed London's wishes to have relations with Iran, but stopped short of indicating any change in his government's misconstrued stand on the crisis.

Interviewed on BBC World Service Thursday, the British official denied any links with the book which is a blatant attack against Islam, but maintained his country's erroneous stand which last Tuesday entailed an ultimatum from the Islamic Republic, of a break in ties.

The Majlis has served notice to Britain to clarify within a week—by March 7—its stand on the sacreligious novel which insults all values dear to Muslims, or else "diplomatic links with London will be snapped."

Though Geoffrey Howe seemed interested in ties with Iran and agreed that the book has hurt Muslim feelings, his interview showed no signs that the U.K. Government has revised its stance on the satanic work which has claimed 20 lives in India and Pakistan.

When questioned by BBC's Harold Briley that ties between Britain and Iran seem to be getting worse by the minute and would Britain do anything to halt that? He replied:

"I think the sensible thing we can do is to go on making clear exactly what our position is. The fundamental problem is the need to secure the withdrawal of the incitement to violence... We want to have, would like to have normal relations with Iran. We have been taking steps in that direction because we wish to have good relations with the people of Iran. But..."

Howe when told that Imam Khomeyni's fatwah was more religious than political and has been misunderstood, merely answered: "We understand that the book itself has been found deeply offensive by people of the Muslim faith. It's a book that is offensive in many other ways as well."

He then went on to repeat those stereotyped statements of "the right of freedom to speak," which have become customary of British officials of late who seem to be unmoved by the injured feelings of the planet's more than one billion Muslims.

When the Indian born British author penned down those poisonous passages, the whole ummah rose up against apostasy but despite prior warning, Britain in a sudden rush of blood placed itself directly in the firing line confronting divine justice as well.

While spearheading the recalling of the 12 West European ambassadors from Iran, little did it calculate Imam Khomeyni's commitment to Islamic principles, even though it had come up with Islam and its laws around the world during its lawless colonial days.

In Islam, apostasy is punishable by death and when Imam Khomeyni pronounced the sentence on Rushdie (Feb. 14), he was only enacting divine laws and fully knew what he was doing unlike London which was not sure of the next step.

Geoffrey Howe thought that a break in diplomatic ties would not affect Britain's political or economic interests in the area, and referring to his forthcoming meeting with Soviet foreign minister said "I shall of coure be interested to hear what Mr Shevardnadze has to say about his visit to Iran for a number of reasons."

He tried to justify London's stand, but the interview made it clear that he was playing with words.

Excerpts:

"The British Government, the British people had nothing to do with the writing or the publishing of "The Satanic Verses"... We don't agree with the views it expresses... There is a huge distance between ourselves and the book. The only link between ourselves and the book is our commitment to the 'principle' of freedom of speech and we do not think that the 'principle' can be set aside..."

It is a matter of extreme regret that the "principle of freedom of speech" is sharply curtailed when matters of national security are involved but not where Islam or Muslims are concerned.

The fact remains that Rushdie's devilish work was a premeditated plot for which the author—hiding in Britain with a 6 million dollar price on his head—was paid a million dollars in advance to insult the spotless character of the Prophet Muhammad and Islam, God's final revelation to mankind.

UK Pressure on Rushdie To 'Withdraw' Book

LD0203231589 Tehran IRNA in English 2259 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] London, March 2, IRNA—Pressure from both inside and outside the British Parliament is mounting on Salman Rushdie to withdraw his book, "The Satanic Verses," from publication.

The book is considered highly blasphemous by Muslims worldwide and Labour Member of Parliament (MP), Max Madden believes that the Indian-born author holds "the key" to defuse the international crisis that has grown up over its publication. He also hopes that such action by Rushdie will prevent an impending severence of diplomatic relations between London and Tehran that has been voted upon by the Iranian Majlis and that is due to take effect next Tuesday.

In other moves, the Foreign Office said Thursday that Foreign Secretary Howe would be meeting his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze in Vienna on Monday to discuss his offer of mediating in the issue that has wide implications on relations with the Muslim world.

Madden himself added to the pressure on Rushdie Thursday by tabling a Parliamentary motion urging the writer to instruct his U.K. and overseas publishers to withdraw the book and to stop further editions being printed.

He told IRNA that he had been in touch with the original London publisher, Viking-Penguin, and that there seemed to be "no legal complications" why this could not be achieved.

Rushdie has been in hiding in Britain since Imam Khomeyni issued the first fatwah on his life on February 14 and Madden who represents the Labour Party in Bradford, Northern England, which has the largest Muslim immigrant population from Pakistan, has been preoccupied with the escalating crisis surrounding the book since it was first published last September.

He said that he had thought about the issue "long and intensely" and came to the conclusion at the end of the week as the only possible way out.

"Clearly developments are now such that I cannot see any other way of trying to defuse the situation unless and until Rushdie issues instructions to stop his book," Madden was convinced.

He said it was "dangerous and difficult situation" that was likely to escalate further with foreign ministers from 45 Muslim countries meeting in Riyadh Saudi Arabia on March 12.

The situation was such that he predicted Muslim countries uniting in their call to ban the book and that it could have grave political and commercial repercussions on the West.

The Labour MP said that he was aware of the way the issue had been treated in Britain with disdain and derision that he believed was an "important contributory factor" that blew up the dispute. He also said that there had been "considerable disappointment" in the British Muslim community that they had "no legal remedy" to have the book banned and that it must now be an 'urgent concern" to review the blasphemy laws in the UK. for all religions.

The position was now that there were "a number of people inside and outside the government," who were concerned about the scale and dangers involved and were 'desparately trying to find a way out."

Both inside and outside Parliament, people were feeling that "unless there was some kind of intervention, events unfolding were only making the situation more intractable," Madden explained.

He hoped that Rushdie would make a rapid response to his appeal to cease publication of the book, which he thought would enable Britain and Iran to have a closer relationship and the given time could lead to better bilateral ties that were "very important."

Foreign Ministry Urges ICO Unity on Book

LD0203164189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In view of the clear insults in the book "The Satanic Verses" to Islamic sanctities and the new Western conspiracy against Islam, the Iranian Foreign Ministry sent a message to the foreign ministers of Islamic countries.

In this message, the Foreign Ministry drew the attention of the foreign ministers of ICO member countries to the danger which threatens Islamic ummah today. The message also stresses: In view of the atmosphere created in the world as a result of this issue, the verdict [hokm] of apostasy [ertedad] issued by various imams among the

Sunni sects and the Shi'ite jurisconsults, announcements by various Islamic groups and jurisprudential groups regarding the book's author, and the clear verdict of religious punishment [hadd-e shar'i] for apostasy according to different sects, the Islamic of Republic of Iran expects that the necessity of harmony to safeguard Islamic values and reject insults will be at the top of the agenda at the ICO meeting of foreign ministers in Riyadh. Clear efforts should be made in that direction.

Velayati Seeks Joint Stand

LD0203180589 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Kuwait, March 2, IRNA—Iran has called on foreign ministers of the 45-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to put the new Western plot against Islam atop the agenda of the forthcoming Riyadh session.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message to his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad today also called for a joint coordinated stand by all Muslim states against "The Satanic Verses" and its support by the West which has rocked Muslims worldwide.

The message was handed to Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Shaykh Sulayman Majid al-Shahin by Iranian ambassador Mohammad Foroughi.

The Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister hailed the Islamic Republic for its "decisive" stand on the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous novel which he described as a "sinister plot" by the West.

Kuwait is among countries which have banned the entry and sale of the blasphemous book, authored by Indian born British citizen Salman Rushdie who pours poison on Islam and the holy prophet (PBUH) [peace be upon him].

In his message to the Kuwaiti foreign minister who will chair the Riyadh OIC meet, Velayati called for a coordinated action against the propaganda campaign launched by the West and Zionism against Islam in the shape of a sacrilegious novel. He termed the West's support for the publication of "The Satanic Verses" as a "passive reaction" by the world of blasphemy to the march of Islam. The message urged the organization not to allow global arrogance to blaspheme Islamic principles and beliefs to the benefit of their political ambitions.

The Iranian foreign minister sent similar messages to his counterparts in all Islamic states urging them to close ranks and rise to the defense of the faith against the West's blatant cultural attack.

Envoy From Bangladesh on 'Satanic Verses'

LD0203184489 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Bangladesh's ambassador M.M. Rezaul Karim today conferred with Minister of Health 'Alireza Marandi on Tehran-Dhaka health and medical cooperation and also exchange of related experts.

The employment of more Bangla physicians in Iran also came up for review.

Marandi appreciated the timely and righteous stance of the Bangla Government and people against the publication of Salman Rushdie's blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" which has hurt world Muslims. The Iranian minister also placed emphasis on further solidarity among Muslim countries.

In response, the Bangladeshi envoy said Dhaka has taken necessary measures for preventing entry and publication of "The Satanic Verses" as soon as it learned of the anti-Islamic contents of the novel.

Bangladesh Muslims, Karim said, have staged protest rallies over the past few days to express their hatred towards the dirty book.

Earlier, Thursday, Karim discussed with Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi further expansion of mutual political and economic ties.

He announced Bangladesh's readiness to cooperate with Iran in the post-war construction projects.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi in reply laid weight on promotion of bilateral relations, and appreciated the Dhaka government's stance against the apostate Salman Rushdie and his satanic work.

Muslims Urged To Voice 'Disgust' Over Book

LD0203132989 Tehran IRNA in English 1202 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—A Tehran daily today proposed the devotion of a day as 'day of public disgust' against the Western arrogance, and urged more than one billion Muslims the world over to voice their hatred of the enemies of Islam on that day "to let them understand that Muslims would never make a deal on their beliefs."

It is important that in the current row created by the West, the initiative remains in Muslims' hands, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted in an editorial Thursday.

In a reference to the diplomatic dispute over "The Satanic Verses" of Salman Rushdie which has brought relations between Iran and the West to its lowest level, the paper said Imam Khomeyni's fatwah (to kill the author) has foiled the arrogant plots and endangered the entity of the foes of Islam. The verdict, as a prelude to a direct confrontation with the sworn enemies of Islam, was a "brave and timely blow" to the West which also disturbed its balance. The daily considered the Muslim reaction throughout the world as the most important event of the week.

Another important event the paper mentioned in its "political analysis of the week" was the Soviet special envoy's meeting with the imam and the delivery of Mikhail Gorbachev's message to him.

"The keypoint which gives more importance to the event is the imam's brief explanation when he recieved the message: I intended to open a new window for Mr Gorbachev to the greater world, the world of after death, which is the eternal world. That was the basic point of my message."

The above statement clarified that the imam will always ponder on his religious duty to enlighten the path of acquaintance with the source of origin and resurrection, it said.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said the fatwah issued against Salman Rushdie is also on the basis of religious duty. "As long as such a basis is the motive for Muslims, God would always help them," it concluded.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Troops in Esfahan

LD0203182689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] We start this hour's news reports with a report from our correspondent 'Azimi about the remarks of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces in their joint morning parade held in Esfahan, while also holding the "Be'that" exercises by the helicopters of the Army aviation [havaniruz] in Esfahan.

[Begin 'Azimi recording] The joint morning parade of the Armed Forces stationed in Esfahan was held in the artillery headquarters of Esfahan. In these ceremonies, which were attended by the military adviser of the Armed Forces commander in chief, the commanders of the Ground Forces and Army Aviation, the governor general of Esfahan, Majlis deputies from the province, military commanders, and officials from the religious-political bureaus of the forces stationed in Esfahan, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces referred to the fact that our 8-year-long defense was a source of eternal pride for our Armed Forces and people.

He said: With all the facilities the enemies had placed at the disposal of our enemy, they imagined that the fate of the revolution was sealed. However, your self-sacrifice proved that Islam is an indestructible fortress. The enemy experienced moments of weakness and desperation despite all the forces that were mobilized. For the same reason, they welcomed the acceptance of the resolution [598] by the Islamic Republic of Iran—provided that the binding articles are accepted and the aggressor is identified.

Referring to the fact that after the military war ended, the enemies of Islam have begun a cultural war against us, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Due to the dearth knowledge they have of the feelings and emotions of Islamic nations, they made a big mistake in exactly the same way that they made a wrong calculation regarding the war. Every day a new wave of Muslim people in the world are joining in this cultural war and at the moment, the enemy has assumed a defensive posture.

He said: In any case, the lesson we can learn from these events is that our enemies have not given up their hostility. It is possible that they may not be considering to resume the war soon, but we should not believe they have given up this idea. The enemy is the enemy. Our forces should not imagine that they will no longer be attacked. Our duty and your duty at this juncture is to be fully prepared. It is an opportunity for us to complete our training.

After these ceremonies, the operational "Be'that" exercises were held in the presence of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the combat-support Air Force base in Esfahan. These exercises were carried out with the participation of 100-helicopters of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The operations involving identification and destruction of the positions of the imaginary enemy were carried out by Cobra helicopters of the mechanized airborne brigade [tip-e mekanizeh-ye havabord] offensive units. The delivery of equipment by Chinook helicopters, the delivery of heavy weapons and ammunition by (?214) helicopters, and air rappel [previous word in English] for aid and rescue operations, were held in the presence of the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and those accompanying him. In the continuation of these ceremonies, 100 helicopters of the Air Force in the Esfahan region took part in a glorious flyover.

[Signed] The Central News Unit, Esfahan [end recording]

Further on Speech

NC0303075289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Our first report of this hour concerns Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks at a meeting in Esfahan which our colleague will now present to you:

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief, spoke at the services held by the residents of Esfahan to commemorate the 2d anniversary of the martyrdom of Hajj Hoseyn Kharrazi, commander of the Islamic Corps of the Imam Husayn, God's Peace Be Upon Him, Battalion, at the Seyyed Mosque last night. He stressed that the actual mission and nature of the Islamic revolution of Iran is cultural. All our work in the economic, industrial, military, and other fields is to serve this cultural revolution.

The speaker of the Majlis added: At the outset, we did not want to have an holy war, but it was imposed on us and we defended ourselves. However, our nation proved that it had the strength to defend itself against the enemy which was supported by the superpowers. He added: Our enemies are not afraid of us economically and militarily; their fear lies in the cultural and moral areas. Western oppression fears the effulgence of the prophetic mission and the growth of our nation's moral acumen and alertness which is impeding the influence of the infidels and the domination of oppression.

Analyzing the international propaganda outcry over "The Satanic Verses," the speaker of the Majlis said: If this scenario, which is an actual battle between Islam and heresy, had gone according to plans, it would have been very dangerous. However, they did not accurately assess the Muslim masses, and their pre-dictated program did not conform to the Muslims' beliefs. By resorting to false cultural standards, they wanted to initiate a campaign against Islam and the Islamic revolution and thus begin an onslaught against us. For this purpose, they utilized all the world's usual propagandia weapons. They were not aware that they were up against a people who raise their voices in prayer at the very mention of the hallowed name of the holy prophet, peace be upon him, and do not even touch the Holy Koran without performing religious ablutions first.

War Resumption 'Not Impossible'

LD0303132189 Tehran IRNA in English 1258 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Esfahan, March 3, OANA-IRNA—In view of numerous problems facing Baghdad, the resumption of war by Iraq was "very unlikely but not impossible", the acting Armed Forces commander in chief has said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said this was why Iran should remain alert while going ahead with its reconstruction projects.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani made the comments in the continuation of his tour of various industrial and military centers in the province Thursday.

The enemies of the Islamic revolution were more frightened by its cultural and spiritual aspects than its economic or military dimensions, he said.

Addressing a large public gathering in Esfahan, the speaker said the Iranian nation has proved during eight years of war that they were able to defend themselves against any enemy no matter how strongly supported by the big powers.

After his arrival here Wednesday, the Majlis speaker inaugurated several industrial plants including the first ammunition production line at the Esfahan military industries complex, and attended the graduation ceremony of military helicopters pilots and technicians.

He also took part in a ceremony at the Esfahan steel plant where a new unit went into operation.

Montazeri, Khamene'i Discuss Afghanistan's Future

LD0203174189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] This morning President Khamene'i met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, the deputy leader, in Qom and talked to him about various issues, including the issue of Afghanistan.

According to a Central News Unit report, at this meeting Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the imminent downfall of the present Afghan Government and stressed the need for all militant forces of that country to unite in the future government of Afghanistan. He said:

The present government of Afghanistan which is an imposed and dependent government is about to fall into the hands of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin. The Muslim Afghan nation and the Afghan mujahidin should keep the following points in mind regarding a future government: First, it should be Islamic; and second, it should be a popular government drawn from the whole Muslim nation and the mujahidin of Afghanistan.

Emphasizing the need to safeguard the legitimate and legal rights of all the Islamic fronts of Afghanistan in playing their part in a future Islamic government, the deputy leader said:

In Afghanistan there are various different Islamic sects and fronts. Each of them should have a share and be involved in the future Islamic government according to the size of their population and their followers. On this basis, the mujahidin brothers—the members of the seven-party Afghan coalition—should note this fact and take into account the legal and legitimate rights of other Islamic factions in that country, whether Shi'ite or non-Shi'ite who have had a major role in the revolution and the struggles. In this way, God willing, the future Islamic government will be drawn from all the Muslim masses and factions of that country.

The deputy leader emphasized that the future government of Afghanistan must be independent and said: Now that the Soviet forces have left, the United States and its agents should not think of interfering in the fate of that country should be decided by the Afghan nation itself and by its fighting mujahidin forces, whatever religious sect they come from. From a political and religious point of view, the Afghan people have matured, and without outside interference they themselves can decide their fate and define their laws.

He added: Of course, there is nothing wrong with Islamic countries helping the Muslim Afghan mujahidin—without interfering in their future. On the contrary, it is the duty of all Muslims to provide material and spiritual asistance to downtrodden Muslim nations wherever they are.

ETTELA'AT Cited on Ties With USSR

LD0303033189 Tehran IRNA in English 0048 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—The Soviet Government should be judged by its behaviour, if, as some believe "a new chapter in Tehran-Moscow relations" has really started, said ETTELA'AT daily in its "Day's Political Commentary" column Thursday [2 March].

Excerpts:

"Iran—as a powerful reality in regional geopolitics—has never been willing (because of tactical interests) that its ties with the Soviet Union should lead to a crisis, especially at a time when the political and commercial goals shared by Tehran and Moscow in the Persian Gulf region were in harmony as the following cases suggest:

"—Tehran and Moscow equally profit by 'a balanced tranquility' in the Persian Gulf, the non-presence of foreign fleets in the region, expansion of political and commercial ties with littoral Arab states and the timely and gradual increase of the price of crude oil.

"In addition to common regional interests, the two share the benefits of bilateral political, commercial and economic ties which necessitates avoiding of tension.

"However, the Soviet Union—which pursues detente with the West and does not like its cooperation with a Third World country to damage this policy—seems to promote its relations with Iran, merely in the framework of general strategy to increase its regional influence.

"In other words, the two sides' different outlook towards the West, the nature of Afghanistan's future government and the method of resolving the Zionist problem, make the arena for action limited.

"This very approach made Foreign Minster Eduard Shevardnadze to focus his talks in Tehran on a 'comprehensive' peace between Iran and Iraq.

"However, Moscow's steady arms supply to Baghdad is an obstacle in the peace-efforts, and as is obvious, Iranian officials at Geneva peace talks are totally unsatisfied with the lack of progress for implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

"In fact Iran's peace efforts over the past six months and the rapid improvement of ties with the West has had no tangible results where international pressure on Iraq for full enforcement of the resolution and withdrawal of forces to pre-war borders is concerned.

"Or to put it more plainly, Western members of the U.N. Security Council are reluctant to exert pressure on Baghdad, and this very issue raises the question: Does Iran profit by expansion of ties with the West especially after the acceptance of Resolution 598? Shevardnadze was told that if his government could provide a breakthrough at Geneva by its influence on Iraq's Ba'thist regime the Islamic Republic would regard it as the Kremlin's goodwill.

"The Soviet foreign minister's visit also coincided with a crisis in Iran's relations with West Europe.

"Besides, critics are doubting the Foreign Ministry's efficiency both during war and peace. They believe that Iran's diplomatic initiative—acceptance of Resolution 598—was insignificant and does not match the rapid political developments, especially normalization of ties with Western states.

"Hence the question all the more arises whether at this crucial juncture when the next round of peace talks are at hand, is Moscow ready to match words with deeds?"

Burkina Faso Minister Arrives, Meets Velayati

LD0103102689 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 1, IRNA—Burkina Faso's Minister for External Relations Jean Marc Palm arrived here on a four-day official visit this morning. He was welcomed at Mehrabad International Airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon arrival, Palm said he was glad to visit a progressive country. "Tehran has great potentials which should be discovered," he added.

"Our talks here will provide an opportunity to know each other better as a result of which the way to further expand bilateral relations will be paved."

He described the Islamic Republic of Iran as "a powerful country" in the political scene of the world.

Velayati also praised Burkina Faso as a revolutionary country and expressed hope that his visit will result in expansion of relations between the two countries.

Talks between Palm and Iranian officials are believed to circle on bilateral relations, regional issues and the African question in particular.

Arranges for Oil Purchases

LD0203111989 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 2, IRNA—Burkina Faso is keen to purchase oil and liquid gas from Iran, visiting External Affairs Minister Jean Marc Palm told Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh here today.

Aqazadeh in reply explained oil and liquid gas exports mechanism to Palm and announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to export oil to Burkina Faso.

Expert delegations of the two countries would exchange views on the issue here shortly, the two sides decided in the meeting.

Meanwhile, Palm and his accompanying delegation inspected different sections including bus and car manufacturing units of Iran Khodro Company.

Palm arrived here Wednesday morning for a four-day visit.

Musavi Views Economy, Rules Out Candidacy

LD0303032489 Tehran IRNA in English 0228 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Tehran, March 3, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi dwelt on the government's activities, and the economic situation, as well as future prospects during the second decade of the Islamic revolution.

During the 2-hours interview, the full text of which was printed in the Thursday [2 March] issue of the Persian daily ETTELA'AT, the premier rejected the idea of the government's failure in the economic arena and in finding solution to public issues.

On the contrary, he said, in view of limited facilities and huge social problems the government has achieved "a great success".

"Running the war for eight years especially without foreign aid, is not an easy task particularly when the government sticks to the constitutional framework without curtailing public freedoms under pretext of having more free hand," he pointed out.

"An inflation of 23 percent—of course it is a bit more now—is a miracle in view of war difficulties, and with no help from outside. If someone ignores these factors, he is either unaware of economic issues or is ignorant about the situation of states engaged in war."

Some problems are related to economy, war and special conditions, while some may stem from the bureaucracy, the major reason of which can be weaknesses in some management sectors, said the premier. But, "most public issues are generally the natural outcome of the wartime situation and revolution."

"When you chant slogans against the regional reactionaries, they cut down oil prices, which entails foreign currency shortage and ultimately affects public standards and welfare," and it is the government's duty to fight the outcome of these problems, he said.

"Every single year of the past decade was unprecedented, since we had air raids, floods, confronting U.S. plots including its direct attacks on ships and oil wells and bombardment of economic centers.

"Of course we used to have high revenues, but the revenues which increased since 1974 in turn caused inflation to jump 16 percent. The inflation during the wartime, Afghan issues and other side effects, should be compared with this figure.

"Imports were at 18 million tons when the population was 36 million, while last year they were between 12 to 13 million tons. When we consider the war factor we see that the inflation rate was practically broken last year regarding the basic items. If we fight hoarders more powerfully, the rate will even go lower than what it is now."

Asked whether government peformance matched slogans, the premier said "We did not chant slogans compared to our actions, of course I mean the action in all fields. Bombardment of the country's economic centers was so devastating that it could have paralysed Iran."

Workers, experts and all were busy in reconstruction "with bleeding bodies and beside the corpses of their brothers." The Abadan refinery was totally destroyed 14 times and was rebuilt again in order to supply necessary fuel needed at the war fronts, and this far exceeds the government's slogans, he added.

"Throughout the eight long years of the war we did not borrow even a single dollar, and resisted falling into the hands of the East or West, keeping our morale high, said the premier.

"We kept the hopes of a billion Muslims alive, we made world equations go awry and more than that we did not suffer from famine, hunger, or lack of medicine even in the remotest parts.

"Seventy U.S. warships were lined up against us in the Persian Gulf while, only a mere two could have overthrown the government if it was any other country. They (Americans) came, attacked our forces, targetted our oil rigs, but they could not demoralise our people.

"If you ever compare the post war economic situation of Iran with that of other countries, you will see that even in Britain, the cradle of capitalism, foodstuff continued to be rationed ten years after the war."

On reconstruction, Hoseyn Musavi termed the rebuilding of the Abadan refinery "a miracle." By refining 130,000 barrels of oil per day a billion dollars are saved for the country, and this money can go to the purchase of raw materials and part of it would also be allocated for foodstuff imports, he said.

The money allocated for reconstruction of the refinery could have been spent on the purchase of rice for nationwide distribution, but the government banked upon the refinery, although this would put some pressure on the people.

The attack on off-shore installations was a calculated move not only by Iraq but also by all regional reactionaries and foreign powers. The oil price fall took place concurrently in order to deprive the government of a centered and regulated planning.

The war has ended with some 80 billion dollars of foreign debt for the Iraqi regime, while Iran does is debt free. "That's why the Majlis decisively proposed cutting of relations with Britain. Suppose if were debt-ridden the Majlis would not dare to enter the debate." [sentence as received]

On necessary manpower for reconstruction he said a center has been established to absorb specialists. Many specialists left the country because of the war, but grounds have been paved for their return, and they are welcome home, he said.

On the coming presidential elections, he said the executive system ensures that "no political contradictions" can influence the normal trend. "Naturally some changes may occur in the country's management and naturally a new government may come and some others would go."

The presidential polls is in fact "an exciting and holy task" in Islamic Iran. "We elect a president without foreign interference which is an extraordinary phenomenon in the Third World."

Premier Musavi ruled out his candidacy in the presidential polls.

Summarising the situation, he said although some difficulties exist, "there is a great hope for our success, and we are very optimistic of the future."

"We did not fall into U.S. hands thanks to the unwanted war which and the people's resistance. [sentence as received] The war broke all dependant bands which could possibly have pushed us towards the United States. The expulsion of 400 American experts with all influences of their corrupt culture, boosts our self-confidence and this is a great achievement."

Khamene'i Addresses Theologians in Qom

LD0203175189 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, the president and head of the country's Supreme Defense Council, attended a gathering of seminarians and theologians from Qom seminary in the town's Imam Askari Mosque this morning. He answered questions posed by the seminarians on the imam of ummah's recent message addressed to the 'ulema and theologians; foreign loans; the acceptance and the trend of implementing Resolution 598; and the arrogance's new conspiracy in publishing the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses" and supporting its author.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr Khamene'i stressed the need for establishing an able management in the seminary, and said: The seminary is the cradle of valuable theological and seminarian virtues, and the venue for training the future managers in society. It should fully endeavor to draw up plans to fulfill the present and future needs of society and even of the world's Muslims. This matter requires able management. On this basis, we should consider and pay attention to the imam of the ummah's recent guidelines on the correct management of the seminary.

Continuing his remarks, the president referred to the inability to use foreign loans, and said: Instead of foreign loans, we could cooperate with countries which possess advanced technology and have adopted a position that conforms with the Islamic Republic's principles.

Mr Khamene'i also spoke about the trend of implementing Resolution 598, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive positions vis-a-vis the Zionist conspiracy of publishing "The Satanic Verses".

Montazeri Assesses Revolution's 'Problems'

PM2102151589 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 8 Feb 89 p 11

[Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri answers questions by "committee arranging celebrations to mark 10th anniversary of the revolution"; part of a series of interviews with leading officials on the anniversary, "published as a booklet"; date, place not specified]

[Text] [Question] One can honestly say that the Islamic revolution has been unsuccessful in achieving its first set of goals and slogans, like many other contemporary revolutions. In some cases it has had to use the same methods and paths used by others, such as accepting relations with the West, accepting international norms, and so forth. What do you feei is the main problem? Do you agree with the statement that in today's shrinking world, one has to think of "corrective measures" rather a "revolution"?

[Answer] When we see revolutions having problems, with internal and external crises, which means a lack of success and a falling short of their primary goals and slogans, this does not indicate a general rule or a historical tradition. It is linked to the methods and actions of its officials and managers.

In our revolution the goal was to achieve Islamic principles and religious ideals, safeguard dignity, and guarantee the rights of the oppressed. Its support came from the people and from the masses' coordination. If those goals had been pursued and if the belief and the peoples' coordination and unity had been kept, without a doubt the revolution would have taken its normal steps and would have blossomed day by day.

Unfortunately, we produced more slogans instead of getting things moving and instead of keeping our values. Rather than ascribing greater value to the people and keeping them on the scene, we put aside and shunned the bright and active ones among them and made them dissatisfied and isolated. Finally, we came to a point where we were forced to take steps that were contradictory to our primary slogans and were forced to forget all our principles.

A revolution is a reality, and there is no solution other than a complete revolution to change a corrupt and imperialistic regime. Correction is not good enough and does not change anything, because the basis of those regimes is wrong. The measure of success of every revolution is the ideological and spiritual growth of its people and the honesty and action of the revolution's officials. This trend will continue until such time as the world is ready for a major revolution at the hands of the Mahdi—may God expedite his return—so that corruption will be wiped from the face of the earth to be replaced with the just rule of the Lord.

[Question] In the past few years we have seen some changes in the ideology of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic. Many people think that these show a departure from the positions taken at the beginning. Do you consider this a normal and continuous evolution or a change in principles?

[Answer] The term that you have used is one that deals with the jurisprudence of clergymen, who have to advance and be in line with scientific and social development in the world so that they can meet the demands and needs of mankind at all stages and at all times. It must not be thought that Islamic laws were only good for the time when people were not civilized and did not have knowledge or industry and were not advanced.

With regard to principles, whether one means Islamic principles or revolutionary principles, one must be careful to ensure that there is a series of stable and unchanging principles in both. These points must be recognized, because it is never wise to make changes in those primary goals. There are other, secondary issues which can be changed in accordance with the demands of time. In jurisprudence these issues have to be separated.

[Question] You have mentioned several times that if there were a choice between "guarding values" and "ruling," the safeguarding of values must be chosen. Where do you think the most important of these values are manifest? Do you not think that, if we put too much stress on preserving our values, the longevity of the Islamic regime will be damaged? And finally: How does one resolve this problem?

[Answer] The question of preserving the values and basic goals of the revolution above everything else, and not governing for the sake of governing at any price, is something that is within the tradition of the prophet of Islam—greetings be upon him—and that of Imam 'Ali—peace be upon Him. This was achieved during their governance, and their methods must be examples for us.

Sometimes it is said that one cannot compare our time with that of the prophet or Imam 'Ali, with all the tricks and plots and the complex issues of the world today. But this is a deviation and misunderstanding. Moral values for which religions, especially Islam, were created, are not something that change. Justice, equality, safeguarding rights and dignity, helping in return, fidelity, honesty and kindness, sacrifice, forgiveness, and so forth are desirable at any time and are the things that humans want. In addition, with the complexity of the situation now, the people's understanding of Islam also becomes complex. Based on these complex situations, those who are wise and who know Islam can explain complicated rules and regulations with the clear-cut teachings of Islam as mentioned in the Koran and the methods of the imams. They then present these for the management of today's society.

The values are the same ones for which we had a revolution and the same ones that we promised our people in our slogans. The establishment of a regime and the taking of power were aimed at realizing those goals and values. Governing is a means and not an end. The end and the goal are the values.

This meaning is seen many times in the words of Imam Husayn and Imam 'Ali and their actions until the moment of martyrdom, throughout all their stages and in their dealings with various people and various enemies, and they are the best examples for us. They were faced with situations where they had to make a choice between staying and ruling or keeping divine principles. They chose the principles, and that is why their method is still alive today and will remain so until the end of time. If they had chosen to rule at the expense of principles, their example would not have lasted through the years, their movement would not have become an example. In any case, the issue of values and principles has to be solved in the manner of the prophet and the imams, which means that first we have to know their policies well and then we have to take them as examples and put them into action.

[Question] The Expediency Discernment Council, formed on the imam's orders in order to make final decisions to solve the nation's problems, is thought by many people to be the same as a similar council mentioned in the Sunnis' religious books. How do you feel about this?

[Answer] The Expediency Discernment Council is not the same as the one involving Sunni religious laws. The Expediency Discernment Council was formed by the imam to adjudicate between the Majlis and the Council of Guardians, which of course was later limited. In any event, it is an organization or body which is against the Constitution and was only formed during the war out of necessity. As the imam said in his reply to a group of Majlis deputies, anything that is done in the future must be done in accordance with the Constitution.

[Question] In the guidelines that you have issued, you indicated that you favor a more prominent role for the people and support an open economy and free trade. Achieving this would mean accepting world trade practices, acquiring the necessary security and facilities for this exchange. On the other hand, in matters relating to foreign affairs and liberation movements, you favor struggle against imperialism and the formation of resistance circles to deal blows against imperialists' interests. You also favor permanent support for liberation movements. How do you think these two ideas come together?

[Answer] We do not mean free trade in the Western sense of the word. What is meant is what the imam has always said: It is to give the people more, so that the government does not have to involve itself in matters that are already in the hands of the people. Rather, the government should correctly supervise the trade which is to be in the people's hands. The government should not be short-sighted in this regard. It could encourage the people's talents, which will result in booming trade, and second, it would leave the government's hands free to deal with other matters.

Of course, this does not contradict the increased government control during the war, which meant shortages or rationing of some goods which were not in plentiful supply. So the issue of supporting liberation movements, Islamic movements, and resistance circles throughout the world in struggle against imperialists has nothing to do with leaving the people alone to engage in trade, production, and so forth or encouraging them and giving the necessary support to them to import and export goods as the country needs. The final word on this is that in production, industry, and distribution it is best for the government just to supervise and exercise control but not undertake those tasks itself.

[Question] There are some people who believe that one of the most important steps is to change the education levels at the theological centers, that is to say, the current methods do not match the needs of the present world. In other words, other issues such as economics, politics, and sociology should be taught at the theological centers. How do you feel about this?

[Answer] There is no doubt that the educational makeup of the theological centers must change in line with new needs, scientific developments, and industrial innovations. But this does not mean less importance should be attached to religious studies. Never. Religious studies must carry the same importance as in the past, but many subjects that were not taught before must be included in the theological centers' studies, so that these centers are able to meet the new demands and needs of society.

With regard to religious studies, it must be noted that in the past our religious scholars were isolated as far as politics were concerned, and this is how they viewed a lot of the laws. The issue of governance has been woven into religious laws but because our scholars were kept away from governance and power, they ignored many of the details and truths of the subject. They gave less of their time to thinking about the government and management of various aspects of peoples' lives. Although they mentioned basic and unrefined issues of government in various ways and in abbreviated form because they were remote from power, they did not set out to solve the problems of religious law and politics.

Today, with the passing of the former corrupt regime and the creation of hope for the establishment of an all-encompassing Islamic regime, the duties of the theological centers are greater than before. There must be a general change in education in the theological centers to incorporate politics, economics, law, and so forth, so that there is study of modern issues, especially with regard to an Islamic government. If this important work is started up in groups, there will be more precise and positive results.

[Question] Do you not think that the time has come for a major change in the writing style used in religious guides written by the grand ayatollahs? If so, how should this be done?

[Answer] With regard to changes in the writing style in the religious guides, it must be said that if there is a change in the educational system and religious studies and in the way issues are proven, there will no doubt be a change in the writing style to match the changing times and the needs of a new generation—if God is willing.

[Question] What has so far been an issue is that the rule of the jurisconsult is above any recognition of issues. Can this still be said when the political leader is also the religious leader?

[Answer] When the religious and political leader become one, the jurisconsult can, as an individual person, give his views and intervene. Since there are many complex issues which need expert opinions, the jurisconsutl must in each case go to the expert in that field, who must be clever, neutral, and dedicated. In this sense he himself can exchange views with those who know and who are experts. This will not be possible unless freedom of expression is given to experts in any subject, so that they can pass on their views and knowledge to the jurisconsult and he in turn, after studying the various views, can then reach a final conclusion on the subject. Otherwise, there is a danger that mistakes will be made and also a danger that he will be remote from the realities of society. In that case there is also a danger that the people will lose out and will become negative toward Islam and the clergy.

[Question] There have been changes in the past few years in various fields. The fact is that slogans and promises have not been fulfilled, and there are many differences of opinions and views, which have all led to some confusion and disappointment among the younger generation which makes up most of our population. Keeping in mind that this situation could lead to a turning away from religion and leave a void, what sort of advice would you have for the younger generation to combat this?

[Answer] We should be concerned about failing to achieve some of the revolution's slogans. But, instead of becoming disillusioned, we must start thinking about the reasons for this lack of success and find solutions. Of course, I agree with the new generation of the revolution that there is a great distance between what we promised and what we achieved, but we must think and must do battle against the problems. If we see impurity and incompetence, we must not just be disappointed but rather must inform officials of the government and the revolution of our opinion. Officials are in fact expected to take note of this great danger, so that they avoid losing our young people. We must avoid a situation where they lose faith, God forbid, in Islam, the clergy, or the revolution. Those responsible must know that they will have to answer in a divine court and also to history.

[Question] There are some who blame the shortcomings and problems that we have faced in the past 10 years on the inability of religion to run the country, incompetence among officials, the use of wrong methods, a lack of real involvement by the people in the political fate of the country, and international pressures. Which of these do you think played the most important role?

[Answer] The five points that you mentioned are all to be blamed for shortcomings, all have their place, and are all worthy of note. Of course, the shortcomings in religion can be attributed to the fact that as Shi'ite laws were not originally designed for governing a country, they do have some pitfalls and problems. These have to be solved with a new revolutionary outlook. What humanity needs has been mentioned in a sporadic way in religious texts, which must be looked at in a profound and revolutionary way. The issues relating to an Islamic government must be considered in terms of the examples set by the prophet and the imams.

With regard to the other issues, unfortunately it can be said that mismanagement, failure to give jobs to the right people, exaggerations, self-centred attitudes, monopolies, factionalism, denial of people's rights, injustice, ignoring the people, and ignoring the revolution's true values have delivered the most severe blows against the revolution to date. If they are not compensated for before it is too late, they will never be compensated for.

It is true that international pressures and the war have already caused our people and our revolution great misery. If we go back to the Islamic and national unity we had before the success of the revolution, if we take care not to place the revolution under total control of a selected few, if we value anyone or any group that believes in the revolution, and if we use all their power in the reconstruction of the country, undoubtedly we will overcome all our internal and external problems. If that happens, the governments of East and West will no longer look greedily at our natural resources. We can then reply on our own internal brains and manpower and no longer depend on the promises of foreign experts and advisers.

Therefore, before any reconstruction in the country, there must first be a reconstruction in the country's way of thinking in terms of management and its quality, and there must be a political and ideological reconstruction in the management of the country. This is something that the people expect of the leader who has so far led the revolution through its most sensitive stages.

Pakistan

Tunisian Prime Minister Meets With Ishaq Khan

BK0203144889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today and exchanged views with him on bilateral matters and regional and international issues. The president stressed the need for concrete steps for mutual cooperation in economic fields and expressed the hope that the Tunisian prime minister's visit will bring the two countries closer to each other.

Baccouche congratulated the president for conducting free and impartial elections in the country and commended on behalf of his government the president's role in this regard. The Tunisian premier thanked the president for Pakistan's consistent support to the Arab stand. Later, the president hosted a luncheon in honor of the distinguished guest. The Tunisian prime minister also met with National Assembly Speaker Mairaj Khalid in Islamabad. Hedi Baccouche has since left for Saudi Arabia at the end his visit to Pakistan.

Comments Before Departure

BK0303034489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has appreciated Pakistan's efforts to maintain close relations with other countries, especially neighboring ones. He was speaking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport last evening before his departure at the end of his 3-day visit to Pakistan.

The Tunisian prime minister said Pakistan has played a vital role in finding a solution to the Afghanistan issue and in providing assistance to Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds. He said during his talks with the Pakistani leaders he exchanged views with them on the Palestine issue and both sides agreed to fully support the Palestinian state.

Hedi Baccouche lauded the restoration of democracy in Pakistan and said Tunis is also marching toward democracy. The Tunisian prime minister told newsmen that the Pakistan-Tunis Joint Economic Commission meeting will be held in Tunis soon to identify areas of cooperation in economics and other fields.

Yaqub Khan Writes to UN on Afghan Accord

BK0203153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the bid by the Kabul regime to involve the UN Security Council in implementing the Geneva accords on Afghanistan. In a letter to the UN Security Council, Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that a mechanism already exists for this purpose. He said that under the Geneva accords there is the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which constitutes a neutral mechanism to address any complaint by the parties concerned.

The foreign minister refuted the Kabul regime's allegations that Pakistan is preventing the return of Afghan refugees, adding they are not returning home because of the numerous mines in Afghanistan and the presence of an administration which has been rejected by the Afghan people.

Delegation Departs for Iran To Discuss Trade

BK0303090389 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] A 12-member delegation has gone to Iran to participate in the Pak-Iran joint ministerial commission meeting beginning in Tehran tomorrow. It is led by the adviser to the prime minister for finance and economic affairs, Mr V.A. Jafarey. Talking to newsmen at the airport, the leader of the delegation said they would exchange views on trade, joint ventures, and cooperation in many fields of economic activity. The two sides would also discuss measures to improve the turnover of trade and reduce its imbalance.

Sri Lanka

President Names Wijetunga as New Prime Minister

BK0303103489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1005 GMT 3 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 3 (LANKAPUVATH)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa named Finance Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga to the post of prime minister, official sources told LANKAPUVATH.

President Premadasa also announced the appointment of Industries Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe as the leader of the 225-member parliament. The appointments were for 1 year up to February 1990, when President Premadasa would decide whether they should be renewed.

Troops, Indian Force Jointly Patrol North, East

BK0303035889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Mar 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan troops and the [Indian] Peacekeeping Force are to jointly patrol the north and east to curb extremist activities. This was stated by the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Wijeratne, in Colombo. He said there are plans to arm and train local people to help protect their villages.

The minister for transport in the northeastern province, Mr Abu Yusuf, said that the provincial government will recruit 7,000 members for the citizen's voluntary force; 1,500 have already been trained. Mr Yusuf along with the chief minister, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, called on the president, Mr Premadasa, in Colombo and discussed about speeding up the formation of the voluntary force.

18 Killed in 'Fresh Wave of Violence'

BK0203161589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Mar 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 18 people have been killed in a fresh wave of violence. Security officials said in Colombo today that Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna [JVP] extremists killed five persons in central Ratnapura town late last night. Two were gunned down in southern Weligama and one in Panadura town near Colombo. In north central Anuradhapura District, six JVP extremists were killed by another group. Three home guards were shot dead by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in northeastern Trincomalee District. A member of the civil voluntary force was killed in Chavakachcheri near Jaffna when a van carrying the volunteers was ambushed by the LTTE.

Trade Relations With Iran To Be Improved

BK0303104489 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1015 GMT 3 Mar 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 3 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka will improve its economic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, a spokesman for the Ministry of Trade and Shipping told LANKAPUVATH. He said more commodities will be exported to Iran in future. At present only oil and tea are traded between the two countries. Under the new program arrangements will be made by the Government of Iran to import more Sri Lankan products such as rubber and pepper, the spokesman said.

The visiting Iranian trade delegation met the minister of trade and shipping, A.R. Munsoor, in Colombo yesterday. The delegates were accompanied by the Iranian charge d'affaires, 'Abdolreza Faraji. Mr Munsoor and the delegates exchanged views on several matters relating to bilateral trade. The Sri Lankan minister pointed out that the trade imbalance with Iran was very much high and it was in favour of Iran. He stressed that in order to bridge this imbalance Iran should concentrate on buying more Sri Lankan products.

Mr Faraji, the charge d'affaires, said that he had fully agreed with the views of the minister and would persuade their traders to purchase more rubber and pepper from Sri Lanka. The Iranian delegation, which is on a 10-day visit to Sri Lanka, will leave the country next week.

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